Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

CUC to finish installing 2,141 concrete poles today. PAGE 2

Defense wants police investigator's testimony stricken. PAGE 3

'My scars are my trophies'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Melvin T. Sakisat's wife was about five months pregnant when he was diagnosed with oral cancer in November 2017.

Being told that he had cancer not only came with a cascade of emotions but also fear. Fear of not seeing his child. Fear of missing out on his child's life. Fear of not being there as his child is growing.

See SCARS on Page 4

Oral cancer survivor Melvin T. Sakisat addresses several cancer survivors during his brief talk at the Marianas March Against Cancer dinner honoring survivors and sponsors at the Kanoa Resort.

ERWIN ENCINARES

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DPL transfers $3M to MPLT

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands, as per its constitutional mandate, remitted $3 million to the Marianas Public Land Trust yesterday, representing money collected from public land leases.

The transfer should be welcome news to the CNMI government; it paves the way for the creation of a line of credit to be created between the CNMI government and MPLT. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier asked MPLT to extend a line of credit for the CNMI Finance Department.

Acting DPL Secretary Marianne C. Teregeyo, along with Finance Division director Evelyn Sablan and acting Real Estate Division director Richard Villagomez met with MPLT chair Martin B. Ada and board financial consultant Bruce MacMillan yesterday to transfer the funds.

DPL has now transferred to MPLT

See DPL on Page 4

NEW QUARTERS

U.S. Mint director David Ryder, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, and American Memorial Park superintendent Barbata Alberti pour quarters in a basket at the launch last Tuesday of the American Memorial Park quarter at the AMP amphitheater in Garapan. The quarters were later handed out to teachers and students who attended the launch ceremony.

BEA CABRERA

See more photos on Page 20

IPI insists it has workers comp

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC maintains that it has workers compensation insurance for its workers, contrary to allegations of seven construction workers who are suing IPI and its two contractors over the injuries they allegedly sustained during accidents at IPI's casino-resort project in Garapan.

In her court declaration dated Monday, Magdalena P. Attao, IPI Human Resources Department vice president, said she is tasked with the responsibility of coordinating and

See IPI on Page 4

INSIDE

ASIA
Emperor Naruhito pledges to follow his father's example by devoting himself to peace.

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NATION
Riley Howell died after tackling a gunman at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

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LIFE & STYLE
Hugs and tears punctuated the final taping of "The Big Bang Theory."

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Local

CUC to finish installing 2,141 concrete poles today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. aims to complete by today, Friday, the installation of 1,323 concrete power poles on Saipan and 818 on Tinian.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said these poles is the first contract in the restoration efforts after Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

He disclosed that all those power poles should be installed on Saipan and Tinian by today's deadline.

Camacho said there was a lapse of funds from this first contract because, under the original contract, they could not bring all the people and equipment on time. The central government created a new contract because the project was already funded.

He said that 90 percent of the project was already funded in the original contract.

Camacho said the new contract provides a 30-day extension but "all the power poles that had been purchased—which is 1,323 on the island of Saipan and 818 on the island of Tinian—will be installed."

Camacho said the next 30 days will involve the installation of wires, conductors, and other materials on the power poles.

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Defense wants police investigator's testimony stricken

Joseph Seman Epina, who has been charged with sexual abuse of a minor, wants the testimony of a Department of Public Safety officer stricken, accusing her of violating due process.

Assistant public defender Heather Zona, who represents Epina, wants the testimony of police sergeant Catherine Pangelinan stricken because of violations of the due process clauses of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

These clauses guarantee fairness for criminal defendants.

Pangelinan had been ordered not to speak to anyone about the case while it is pending but, at a hearing last April 24, Pangelinan admitted that she spoke to a colleague about the case, which led to a drastic change in her testimony.

Zona argued that Epina has been prejudiced by Pangelinan when she defied the order because, by changing her testimony drastically, it taints the integrity of the case.

"Mr. Epina has been prejudiced by Sgt. Pangelinan's violation of the order because she changed her testimony substantially after being in contact with Lt. [Jeffrey] Olopai. Her testimony in the afternoon was influenced by her improper contact with Olopai and therefore is unreliable," she said.

Zona said the proper remedy would be to strike all of Pangelinan's testimony after her conversations with her colleague.

"The sanction of striking Ms. Pangelinan's afternoon testimony is appropriate and particularized to the circumstances here, as it is the defendant who is prejudiced by Ms. Pangelinan's actions. The sanction ensures the integrity of the case," she said.

During the morning half of the hearing back in April 24, Pangelinan testified that she threw away her notes on the case because she was angry with the Office of the Attorney General's previous prosecutor, Teri Tenorio, who had allegedly attacked her job performance. Pangelinan was later transferred from investigations unit to evidence custodian. Pangelinan said it was after her transfer that she threw out her notes on Epina's case.

Soon after, the court called a lunch break but, before allowing her to leave, Pangelinan was ordered not to speak to anyone about her testimony.

After lunch, Pangelinan's testimony allegedly changed drastically and, instead of throwing out her notes, she told the court that she left the notes in a box or filing cabinet and could not locate them.

Pangelinan also added that her notes were merely missing.

When asked whether she spoke with anyone during lunch, Pangelinan admitted she communicated with Olopai through WhatsApp and told him she was being questioned about her notes that she threw away.

The court was able to get a copy of the conversation where Pangelinan discussed the testimony and asked her colleague to verify whether officers were not allowed to throw their notes. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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Tourism Month kicks off

Marianas Tourism Month has officially kicked off with a proclamation signed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last April 30, at the Office of the Governor.

The Marianas Visitors Authority and industry partners participated in the occasion, where the proclamation and calendar of events were read by members of Saipan Southern High School's Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically, or My WAVE Club.

"Tourism is still the Marianas' primary economic driver, providing government and business revenue and jobs and contributing to a higher quality of life for our people," said acting MVA managing director Judy Torres. "We invite everyone to participate in the many activities planned in celebration of Tourism Month and to work together throughout the year to make our Marianas the best place to live and the best place to visit. And it is still true, 'Tourism is everybody's business.'"

Gov. Ralph Torres, left, and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios declare Marianas Tourism Month for May 2019 at a proclamation signing ceremony on April 30, 2019, at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Japanese Saipan Travel Association got a jumpstart on the month's celebration with a cleanup of downtown Garapan on April 20, also prior to Japan's Golden Week holiday travel period. Fifty participants from 14 businesses and organizations joined the cleanup.

The 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday at the American Memorial Park from 6pm to 10pm (closing at 11pm on May 25).

The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine and drinks sold by over 20 hotels and local establishments. Live local and international performances will entertain festival goers throughout the night.

The Taste of the Marianas will also feature exciting food competitions such as Kadun Pika Cook Off, BBQ Whole Chicken Cook Off, J's Fried Rice eating competition, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands' Junior Chef Competition. Contest registration forms are now available at www.mymarianas.com. Each Saturday, the first 40 patrons to purchase $40 or more in Taste tokens will receive a free caricature sketch by Ronald Valiente.

Throughout the month, radio listeners can call in with the correct answer to tourism trivia to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas or a Marianas Tourism Month T-shirt. Participating radio stations are Power 99, KCNM-KZMI, KWAW and KKMP.

My WAVE Club member of Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High and the Funk Squad will spread Rota's famous island hospitality with visitor greetings at the Rota airport and seaport on May 11 and 25. Members of the My WAVE Club will also be planting trees at Chen'chon Bird Sanctuary to replace those lost during recent typhoons.

Throughout Saipan, My WAVE Clubs members will show their support for tourism with roadside wavings on various days.

Tinian will focus on ecotourism with two programs. "I am a Green Tourist" on May 13 to 17 will allow visitors to participate in the mass planting of coconut trees and other plants along the roads and at beaches or tourist sites. The name of the visitor and tree planted will be recorded as an acknowledgement of the visitor's contribution. Also, students of Tinian Elementary School and Grace Christian Academy Tinian will join tour guides on an MVA tour of historical and cultural sites of the island, where they will learn about the history and significance of the sites. Non-profit organizations, school clubs, out-of-school youths and government employees will join together to enhance Tinian's tourist sites with landscaping and cleanup.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/mymarianas or email communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Gov. Ralph Torres is joined by tourism industry representatives in declaring Marianas Tourism Month for May 2019 at a proclamation signing ceremony on April 30, 2019, at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SCARS

From Page 1

In fact, Sakisat missed his child's birth as he was in the Philippines, receiving chemotherapy.

"My biggest fear was missing out on the life of my baby," he said.

Sakisat told the story of the roller-coaster of emotions he went through last Wednesday during a dinner at the Kanoa Resort Saipan that honored the Marianas March Against Cancer's sponsors and cancer survivors.

Speaking at a program during the dinner, Sakisat shared his mental journey along with his struggles with coping with cancer and recovering from it.

"You are overwhelmed with all the bad emotions. … It took me a while to get over it but, once I accepted the fact that I had cancer, it was game on," he said.

Sakisat noted that his doctors did not inform him which stage his cancer was.

"Life after cancer is a whole lot different. …The biggest challenge was making adjustments to my new normal," he said.

While his recovery is doing just fine, there are times when he would get distorted and "too distant."

"I learned to look at things from a different perspective. I learned just how beautiful a day can be. …My priorities have drastically changed and I cherish my family now more than ever," he said. "My scars are my trophies and they always bring a smile to my face when I see them. It is a constant reminder that I am one tough [person]."

John Brondo, a 13-year-old leukemia survivor, told *Saipan Tribune* that he was diagnosed when he was only 3 years old. He has been cancer-free since 2012.

"I feel happy. I feel free," he said.

Retta Sue Hamilton, one of two inspirational speakers at tomorrow's MMAC along with Israel De Leon, told *Saipan Tribune* that she was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer on Jan. 6, 2015. Hamilton was diagnosed with poorly differentiated invasive ductal carcinoma, a common type of breast cancer.

Hamilton noted in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* that she took a less traveled route to find healing—a treatment that was more focused on diet, exercise, and general healthy living.

"I try to tell people not to own cancer. Owning it is like [setting intentions]," she said. Hamilton noted that she was declared cancer-free just this April 2019.

"I strongly believe in the body's ability to heal itself. We need to be proactive rather than reactive in our approach to our own health and wellness. I see this happening a lot now and it makes me smile," Hamilton said in a statement.

De Leon will speak later tonight at the MMAC about his experience with squamous cell carcinoma oral cancer. He was diagnosed with the disease on April 2017.

The 2019 MMAC, hosted by the Commonwealth Cancer Association, would be held tonight starting at 5:30pm at the Commonwealth Ports Authority field. It will last until 6am tomorrow. The event raises funds for the CCA.

DPL

From Page 1

a total of $15.22 million in revenue from public land leases since September 2007.

Prior to yesterday's remittance, DPL transferred $1.5 million to MPLT in September last year.

DPL is mandated by the CNMI Constitution to manage public lands and turn over lease revenue from public lands to MPLT, which then invests those funds. DPL is only allowed to retain the amount it needs to manage public lands.

Torres earlier asked MPLT for a $15-million line of credit for the CNMI government to meet is bond obligations and required pension payments. That request is embodied in House Bill 21-44, which House Speaker B.J. Attao (R-Saipan) had already introduced in the CNMI House of Representatives, authorizes the creation of the line of credit. That bill remains pending in the House.

H.B. 21-44 pledges the amount that MPLT would give to the Commonwealth's general fund as security for MPLT's issuance of the line of credit.

Attao's H.B. 21-44 would authorize MPLT to withhold a net annual distributable interest income that would begin in fiscal year 2020.

IPI

From Page 1

subscribing to various insurance policies governing IPI employees.

Attao's declaration was attached in support of IPI's motion to dismiss the workers' lawsuit.

One such insurance policy that falls under the duties of her department and/or the employees she directly supervises is Workers Compensation Insurance, Attao said.

She attested that IPI had Workers Compensation Insurance for its employees in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The plaintiffs are suing IPI and its two former contractors: Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC and MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co.

The seven workers then amended their lawsuit to add the charge of forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions.

They are demanding damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

In IPI's motion to dismiss, IPI general counsel Phillip J. Tydingco said the plaintiffs' fourth claim in their lawsuit is premised on the allegations that IPI did not maintain Workers Compensation Insurance. Tydingco said that IPI did, in fact, had that insurance.

Tydingco said the Workers Compensation policy clearly provides that it covers claims of employees of construction subcontractors.

The lawyer said the complaint does not allege that any of the plaintiffs filed a claim with the Workers Compensation administrator within one year.

On plaintiffs' claims for violation of Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, Tydingco said the workers' reliance on speculative and conclusory allegations is insufficient to support a claim for relief.

Tydingco said count one of the claim is replete with speculative and conclusory allegations and lacks allegations of specific conduct relating to "forced labor, trafficking, or document retention in furtherance of trafficking."

"At best, plaintiffs' allegations relate to violations of federal labor and immigration laws but not to conduct which amounts to forced labor trafficking or unlawful documentation retention in furtherance of trafficking," the lawyer said.

Tydingco said the plaintiffs' allegations concerning IPI's purported disregard for the safety of workers are immaterial and scandalous. He asked the court to also dismiss the claim. Such allegations, he said, are meant solely to inflame passion or prejudice against IPI and serve no other purpose.

The seven plaintiffs are Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yang.

PH absentee ballots pick up

The Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago is requesting the following persons to pick up their absentee ballots for the Philippine election on May 13, 2019, at the consular office on the second floor of Finasisu Terraces, Bldg. D, atop the mini mart:

Adlaon, Quirino Genoso
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Butial, Jose Gacos
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Cervantes, Brian Donato
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Ecalne, Jose Echon
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Evangelista, Joselito Villar
Feria, Catherine Quijom
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Morales, Roily Penaflor
Naol, Rotcivel Remorosa
Nicdao, Jesus Salak
Nicdao, Rosal Bajao
Nunez, Fernando Domingo
Oria, Juanito Ramos
Pagarao, Rolando Quias
Palacio, Ruben Raumero
Perez, Allan Alamer
Pergil, Rodulfo Villaruel
Pineda, Nerissa Gopez
Postorioso, Mariano Taladro
Quijano, Bella Paras
Quizon, Ronaldo Perez
Rectitud, Benito Jr Imperial
Regis, Melinda Reyes
Reyes, Gaudencio Palabasan
Reyes, Ken Rosevelt Reniedo
Ricablanca, Joel Villanueva
Salvador, Romeo Bronda
San Diego, Mark Anthon Austero
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Silvestre, Raul Salunson
Simbran, Romel Medrano
Sison, Nilda Olivar
Tapnio, Charliemagne Macaraeg
Tenorio, Teresita Padulaga
Timbol, Rizaldy Tolentino
Tobias, Ferdinand Genetia
Tuason, Baby James Fernandez
Usman, Francisco Jr Parico
Velasco, Rowena Ranada

The consular office is open Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, breaktime). Bring identification to pick up your absentee ballot. For any inquiry or details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

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Kilili bill seeks to make college more affordable for NMI

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced legislation yesterday authorizing special federal tuition assistance for graduates of Northern Marianas College who want to pursue a four-year degree at any public university in the United States.

The grant would cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition.

Sablan's bill, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa College Access Act, also applies to American Samoa Community College graduates.

The Marianas and American Samoa are the only insular areas without four-year colleges.

"Students from the Marianas and Samoa face a significant financial barrier, if they want to get a bachelor's degree," Sablan said. "Nationwide, nonresident college students spend an average of $14,480 more on tuition than resident students.

Sablan said his legislation would cover that cost for students who have graduated from NMC with a two-year degree and want to go on with their education."

Sablan included a similar provision in last year's reauthorization of federal higher education policies, the Aim Higher Act. That bill, offered by Democrats, did not get a vote in the House of Representatives. But this year, with Democrats in the majority, it is expected that a higher education bill will make it to the floor.

Sablan, as a member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, plans to add his College Access Act to that larger bill. He is also chairman of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and has made education his signature issue during his congressional career.

"I believe that the key to success for the Marianas is an educated citizenry," Sablan said. "For many that will mean more than a high school diploma. Postsecondary education is increasingly necessary to get a decent job with a decent wage.

"I will continue to work for ways to make college more affordable, so students from the Marianas have every opportunity to pursue their education."

This week, Democrats in the House rolled out their spending plan for education in the coming fiscal year. That bill increases federal aid for college students to $24.9 billion, making the maximum Pell grants next year $6,345. The Trump administration has proposed cutting student aid. ***(PR)***

Public servants recognized

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the CNMI public service sector were recognized last Tuesday afternoon at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill with the signing of a proclamation designating the week of May 5-11, 2019, as Public Service Recognition Week.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the occasion honors the "unsung heroes" who keep the Commonwealth government chugging along.

"Public employees take not only jobs, but oaths to perform their jobs to the best of their abilities," the proclamation noted.

Public servants include military reserve personnel, police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, customs and conservation officers, doctors, nurses, health care professionals and others who risk their lives for others on a daily basis, along with teachers, social workers, administrators, computer technicians, laborers, and may more occupations.

Office of Personnel Management director Isidro K. Seman noted that while tourism drives the CNMI economy, the efforts of the public service workforce should not be forgotten.

"...Tourism is the driving force [of the CNMI], but without the workforce, that driving force is nothing," he said. "We are here to celebrate each and every [public servant]. Today is your day."

"…Every occupation out there is needed…whether you are a gardener, carpenter, teacher, nurse, or elected official," said Torres in a short speech before congratulating government employees.

Torres noted that Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios would be making the rounds to greet government employees in each department.

"I am looking forward to celebrating public service recognition, and I appreciate all the hard work that [the public servants] have been doing," said Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

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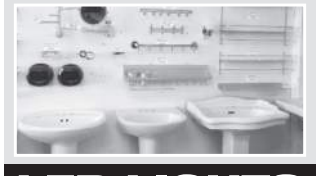
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PRMC ordered to pay $430K

Pacific Realty and Management Corp. has been ordered to pay $430,000 in a lawsuit filed by Li Fen Luan.

The Superior Court found Luan to be a bona fide purchaser of a 298-square-meter property in Chalan Kanoa owned by Calvin Cabrera Tagabuel. However, Luan has been deprived the right to the property because PRMC continues to operate its business on the grounds.

The court directed PRMC to pay Luan $80,000 in compensatory damages, $50,000 for trespassing, and $300,000 in punitive damages.

Tagabuel was ordered to pay Luan $10 in punitive damage.

The court entered its order by default because Tagabuel failed to appear and oppose Luan's claims.

According to court information, Luan filed the lawsuit back in 2016 because she entered into a lease agreement with Tagabuel for 55 years at $15,000. However, Luan was deprived her right to the property because PRMC entered into a lease extension agreement with Tagabuel shortly after.

PRMC and Tagabuel had a previous lease agreement that had expired.

Tagabuel and PRMC president Cheong Pui Ng had a lease agreement on the property in 1999 for 12 years with an option to extend the lease. After the lease expired in 2011, Tagabuel and Ng agreed to an extension of three years.

The court found that no lease extension was ever recorded.

The three-year extension expired on Sept. 10, 2014 and no agreement was discussed to further extend PRMC's lease.

On Sept. 30, 2014, Luan entered into a lease agreement with Tagabuel for a term of 55 years at $15,000. The term was to start from Nov. 5, 2014, to Nov. 4, 2069.

On Nov. 4, 2014, Tagabuel signed a receipt for Luan for full payment of $15,000.

The lease agreement was recorded with the Commonwealth Recorder.

On Dec. 16, 2014, Tagabuel entered into a new term with Ng who paid $15,000 despite Luan already paying for the property.

PRMC continued to operate its business on the property. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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‘Strict gun laws key to lack of violent crimes in CNMI’

U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI Shawn N. Anderson attributes the relative lack of violent crimes or gun-related crimes in the Commonwealth to its strict gun laws.

Anderson told reporters Wednesday that the national priorities in investigating criminal cases are narcotics trafficking and violent crimes but there’s not much of violent crimes or gun crimes on the island “because the laws in the CNMI, the gun laws, are so strict.”

Instead, in the CNMI, the high priority are prosecuting criminal immigration, public corruption, and white-collar crimes.

“The citizens if they see something not right, they should report to the police or to the [Drug Enforcement Administration],” Anderson said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CAR SERVICE GIVEAWAY

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. staff member Dionne Camacho, right, presents Guadalupe Sabino, left, with a car service gift certificate. Sabino is the 10th winner and will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co. Pacifica is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019 to mark its 45th anniversary. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/45years.

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with our compliments from May 6-10, 2019
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6:30am to 10:00am (Middle Road Store)
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*Limit 1 small coffee per person per visit
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GCA IS ALSO A PART OF THE U.S. STUDENT & VISITOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND ACCEPTS FOREIGN STUDENTS.

Grace Christian Academy is located on Upper Navy Hill. For more information, please call **322-3320/3850** or set up an appointment to visit the school

McDonald's acknowledges local educators

McDonald's CNMI and Guam has, for the first time, joined the celebration of Teachers Appreciation Week by offering a free cup of coffee to all educators to start their day.

The local franchisee of the fast-food restaurant wants to let local educators know that their hard work does not go unnoticed and would like to give back to them through coffee.

According to Mable Glenn, McDonald's CNMI executive assistant to the president, they will offer free coffee to all educators for a week—the first time the company will be doing this. "We just want to thank our educators…for what they do for our students. Why not through a cup of coffee to help start their day?"

Glenn said that all who work in the line of educating—teachers, principals, counselors, etc.—are eligible for a free cup of coffee.

The only requirement is a valid school ID to prove you are an educator and you can visit any McDonald's branch drive-thru or in stores.

The promotion isn't available through the McDonald's app.

The cup of coffee is free, no other purchases required, and is available from 5:30am to 10am from May 6 to May 10.

National Teachers Week is celebrated in the entire United States.

McDonald's Saipan and Guam hopes to implement this promotion every year. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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Atalig promises transparency

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David Atalig, who has been the acting Finance secretary for almost two months now, promises to be transparent regarding the financial situation of the CNMI.

When asked about how he plans to do so in Wednesday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan Charley's Cabaret, Atalig said he would be straightforward in answering questions about the government's finances.

"I report on a monthly basis to our governor [Ralph DLG Torres] on our current revenues and expenditures. It is just going through the press secretary. And these are all public documents and we get audited by [Public Auditor] Mike [Pai]," he said.

"We will be transparent in all that we're going to do. I will be transparent in my vision. My vision is every employee will share what they can share. [But] we are bound by a lot of taxpayer confidentialities. We are bound by privacy laws and acts. Our staff should be able to answer the questions that you may have and if they don't, please let me know."

This comes soon after many in the community have questioned the Torres administration's claim of runaway economic growth in the last two years and its current plan to secure a line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust to help it meet its many obligations. The administration has blamed the unexpected onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu last October 2018 for knocking the CNMI economy off its resurgent track after many years of economic stagnation.

Atalig said he does not know how his predecessor, former secretary Larrisa Larson, ran Finance and "I only care what's going forward. What today brings. I am open. I am open to the media. I am open to anyone who is asking questions."

"It may be two or three days late but I will get back to you, especially if inquiries are on specific issues. I would like to get the information before I call back, so we could have a good, healthy conversation instead of prolonging that call," he added.

He said he still has no idea how to report to the public. "I don't have a platform to do monthly financial reports to the public, I haven't thought of that. I don't know how or where on how can I provide information on our financial status."

He concedes that he reports weekly to the House Ways and Means Committee and monthly to the governor. "So the governor and his staff can share that information."

Atalig said that his department is also working on a new website where the community can make suggestions, report taxpayer challenges, or share ideas to improve the agency.

"I am open to all suggestions. We will be creating a strategic plan for the department and I hope to reach out again for input. As we are working on this plan, we would like to reach to out to our stakeholders—the public and other agencies."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Airport road to be blocked off for MMAC

During the Marianas March Against Cancer today, Friday, May 3, the traffic heading northbound, leaving the airport will be blocked off at 5pm. From the 4-way intersection, only southbound traffic (heading to the airport) will be allowed, making that road a one-way street. To exit the airport, you will be directed to exit left of the airport, heading down As Gonno. With this, please plan your trips to the airport with a little extra time. ***(PR)***

Veterans' town hall meeting

The U.S. Department of Veterans Health Administration is having a town hall meeting hosted by the Veterans Affairs Pacific Island Health Care System director Jennifer Gutowski. This will be to share information, hear feedback from veterans and to answer questions on VA Health Care.

The town hall meeting for the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian are on:

■ Saipan: American Memorial Park theater on May 7, 2019, from 3pm to 4:30pm.

■ Tinian: The Mayor of Tinian's conference room, May 8, 2019, from 9:30am to 11:30am.

■ Rota: The Mayor of Rota's conference room, May 9, 2019, from 10am to 12pm.

All veterans, their families, survivors and any organization or individual who works with or on behalf of veterans are encouraged to attend.

Point of Contact is Ruth Coleman, 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Guam CHamoru commission meetings set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' *(Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam)* will hold its monthly meeting on May 9 and 23, Thursdays, from 12:30pm to 3pm., at the Garden House, Plasa de Espana, in Hagåtña. A work session will also be held on May 16, from 12:30pm to 3pm at the same venue.

For more information contact kumisión chair/gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/sikritåria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct training at Radio Barrigada

ASAN, Guam—The 644th Combat Command Squadron will conduct training at Radio Barrigada, formerly known as the Adm. Nimitz Golf Course, on May 4 to 10, from midnight to 7pm. These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. The public should be advised that during these routine trainings blanks may be used. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

New PH passports for releasing

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will be releasing passports to those who renewed their passports last March 3, 4, and 5. You can pick up your new passport at Finasisu Terraces Apartment Bldg. D, second floor, top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, breaktime). Bring your old passport and receipt when claiming your new passport. If someone else will pick up the passport, there must be an authorization letter from the applicant. For any inquiry or details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

2019 Women's Health Month

Women's health month (WHM) serves as a reminder for women to make their health a priority and build positive health habits for life.

This May, take steps for your health.

Early detection is your best protection against cervical cancer. Getting your pap test done regularly can help find and treat irregularities/abnormal changes in your cervix before it becomes cervical cancer. The Breast & Cervical Screening Program under the Division of Public Health Services can help pay for your pap test. For more information about getting a pap test done, or for information on other women's services, please call 236-8731/27.

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Healthy Cooking Demo free samples & giveaways!
MAY 8TH AT AFETNA SUPERMARKET IN SAN ANTONIO 5:00PM-6:30PM

Healthy Cooking Demo free samples & giveaways!
MAY 9TH AT TWINS MARKET DAN DAN 5:00PM-6:30PM

Systems of Care Family Expo
MAY 25TH AT CAROLINIAN AFFAIRS OFFICE 10:00AM-2:00PM

Fore more information about WHM events please call 664-8701.

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MPLT committee wants to study line of credit proposal

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Public Land Trust board treasurer Vianney B. Hocog has asked board chair Martin B. Ada to let the MPLT's investment committee to look into the request of the government to create a line of credit with their agency.

Hocog, who also sought the assistance of MPLT financial consultant Bruce MacMillan, heads the investment committee.

Hocog said he wants himself and MacMillan to prepare a report that they would present to the full board at their next meeting. The board will be meeting again next week with MPLT trustees Maria Frica T. Pangelinan and Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero.

Only Ada, Hocog, and Peter Q. Cruz were present at their meeting last Tuesday at the MPLT conference room where they discussed Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' letter. The government is asking for a $15 million line of credit with MPLT to secure funds to pay its bond obligations and the Settlement Fund.

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) has already introduced House Bill 21-44 to authorize the MPLT line of credit.

Right now, Hocog believes it is a good idea to accept the government's request, saying it would be a guaranteed fix to the CNMI's current financial fix.

"The opportunity is here and this could be long term. We have the opportunity to study this further and know what would the repayment schedule would be," he said. "This is the purpose of MPLT, to help the Commonwealth in times like this. Now, how do we approach this? Give us a day or two, so that we can study this and we can recommend it to the board. Give us the responsibility to put up a financial scheme and matrix."

MacMillan agrees with the board that they should exercise their due diligence. "The initial hurdle, as you said, is for the Department of Public Land to transfer $10.9 million to MPLT…," he said. "Once we have that funding, then we can consider the other aspects of evaluating the proposal as to the remaining funding that would be required to get the desired amount being requested by the governor."

MacMillan added that MPLT investment consultant would also be involved "because we would have to sell some investments and would have to consider the effect on our assets allocation and make changes to the investment policy statement.

"All of those factors are part of the due diligence process but everyone is in agreement that the major funding source for this is DPL's [remittance] of $10.975 million that, we feel strongly, is owed to us," added MacMillan.

The $10.9 million in funds from DPL are revenues from public land leases, which the Office of the CNMI Attorney General had said has to be transferred to MPLT. "Those… are public land funds that must be transferred to MPLT. DPL's continued retention of the funds constitutes a violation of the [DPL] secretary's fiduciary duties which may likely subject the secretary to personal liability," said the OAG's conclusion in a report last October.

The Marianas Public Land Trust board at a recent meeting.
JON PEREZ

Registry for Japan's new emperor

The Japanese Consular Office would be setting up a book registry for those who wish to convey their greetings for Japanese Emperor Naruhito's accession to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

The Consular Office of Japan said the book registry is a way for people to write down their congratulatory messages.

Naruhito's ascension to the throne marks the start of the Reiwa Era. He succeeded former Japanese emperor Akihito to the Chrysanthemum Throne upon the latter's abdication on May 1, 2019.

The registry began yesterday and will be done today and Monday, May 6, from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm, at the consulate's Puerto Rico office. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Rally around rebuilding the infrastructure of the US

Under President Donald Trump, the United States has added another spring ritual to accompany blooming flowers and the return of baseball: the fresh promise of a grand plan to rebuild the nation's infrastructure.

Tuesday, Trump and his advisers met with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. There were similar meetings and similar brandings of "infrastructure week" in early 2017 and 2018, too. But this time, Democrats Pelosi and Schumer sounded optimistic about the conversation, and about a potential bipartisan plan to spend $2 trillion to repair the nation's crumbling roads, bridges and tunnels, improve the power grid and expand broadband service.

A vital nation must have high-quality infrastructure. Rebuilding ours would provide good-paying jobs, a better business environment and a safer and more comfortable nation. There is little opposition in either party, so it's vexing that a bipartisan deal hasn't already been done.

But it always comes down to funding and priorities. To spend $2 trillion, that money must be raised via public or private sources, whether it's borrowed, assessed in gasoline taxes or other levies or captured via tolls and fees. And then it must be parceled out fairly and wisely.

The tri-state area needs major improvements. One is the Gateway project, a $30 billion effort to build a rail tunnel under the Hudson River. We need more workaday improvements, too, like safe roads and bridges. We need to be able to easily move products and people about. And we need to be able to move important legislation, too.

Trump and congressional leaders plan to meet again on the topic in three weeks. This time, they need to the framework of a deal. Because if failing to do so becomes an annual tradition, the decline of our nation will become a foregone conclusion.

(c)2019 *Newsday*

Venezuela on the brink

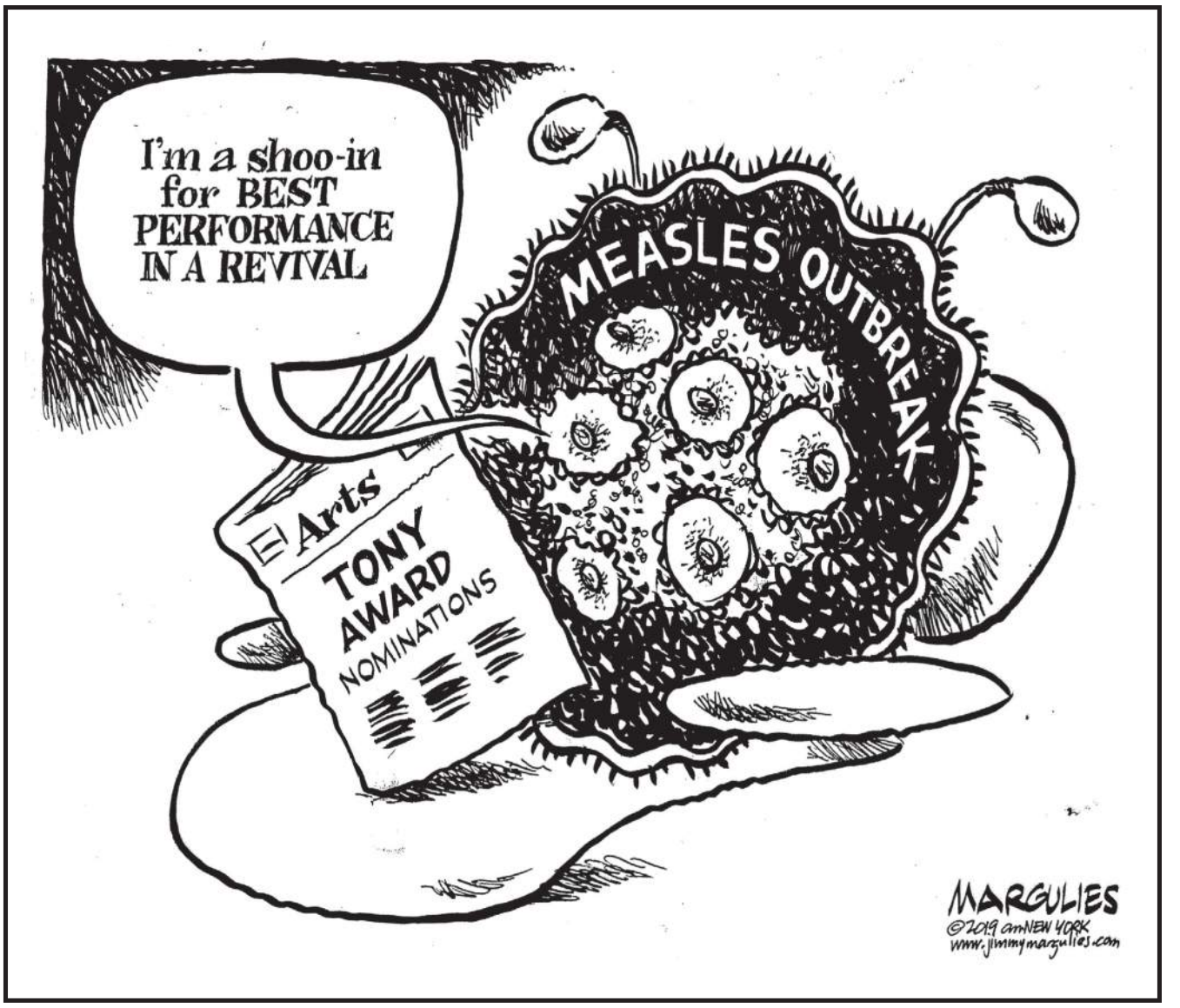
The rightful leader of Venezuela Juan Guaido in trying to force out the usurper Nicolas Maduro, Tuesday met with military leaders previously seen as loyal to Maduro. We pray there is no violence.

Despite the united stand of Latin America and Washington recognizing Guaido as the president, Maduro has refused to leave the office he's held since he succeeded Hugo Chavez in 2013. He's wrecked the economy with an authoritarian brand of socialism that has sent inflation spiraling 80,000 percent, terrorized political opponents and caused nearly 4 million people to flee the country. Its oil riches have drained up in the face of international sanctions.

Guaido is scheduling a massive march on Wednesday as a show of support to oust Maduro.

The people of Venezuela need to settle this precarious situation themselves. America can give aid where possible, but given our fraught history in the region, must do so delicately.

See RALLY on Next Page



What's really behind the gender wage gap?

By RACHEL GRESZLER
The Heritage Foundation

Rachel Greszler is a research fellow specializing in economics, budget and entitlements at The Heritage Foundation.

For many Americans, the wage gap between women and men comes down to simple discrimination. What else could explain it?

It's hard to blame them. Is there any other reasonable explanation for the fact that, compared to men, women make only 80 cents on the dollar?

Why, yes, there is. That 20-cent gap compares the earnings of all men who work at least 35 hours per week to those of all women working 35 hours or more. It makes no allowances for differences in occupation, education or experience, job conditions and risks, or whether an individual works 35 or 55 hours per week.

Devoid of such real-life context, the "wage gap" statistic is grossly misleading. The apparent gap is not born of discrimination. Rather, it arises from a difference in life choices.

The "gender wage gap" reflects women's freedom to pursue the education and occupation they desire, and their opportunity to choose a job environment and work schedule that fits their needs and desires. Viewed in this light, the gap is something to be celebrated, not bemoaned.

So let's take a closer look at why those 20 cents are missing.

A 2019 National Bureau of Economic Research study concluded that "hours worked" alone accounted for at least half of the wage gap.

A 2018 PayScale study factoring in additional variables such as experience, industry and job level found that women receive 97.8 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. The minimal gap remaining may result from more difficult-to-measure factors such as flexible work hours and generous benefit packages that women tend to value more than do men.

And yet, despite overwhelming evidence that the so-called wage gap is really a choice gap, some want the government to step in and "fix" the nonexistent problem. And that's a problem in itself, because their proposed solutions will wind up hurting workers—both women and men.

That's what happened when Denmark tried to reduce its wage gap by requiring companies to report their salaries by gender and race. In a sense, it somewhat worked: The wage gap at those companies fell by 2 percentage points. But the gap narrowed because the companies lowered men's wages rather than raising women's. The workers were no better off, and the businesses' productivity fell as well.

Today, virtually everyone—employers included—believes workers should get equal pay for equal work. Indeed, it's been the law of the land for more than half a century—since the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

But that didn't stop virtue-signaling members of the House of Representatives from recently approving yet another law: the Paycheck Fairness Act. The proposed law encourages companies to enact rigid pay scales and one-size-fits-all jobs that don't meet many working women's (and men's) needs.

It didn't work in Denmark, and it won't work here. Instead of generating higher paychecks for women—something they are already enjoying by virtue of their productivity—the bill would almost certainly reduce wages for all workers. Perversely, since the bill emboldens trial lawyers to gin up class action lawsuits, some companies would hesitate to hire women, as a way to preempt groundless yet costly lawsuits.

There's a huge drawback to rigid pay scales, too. Numerous economic studies show performance-based pay produces a 6 to 10 percent increase in productivity compared to rigid pay scales.

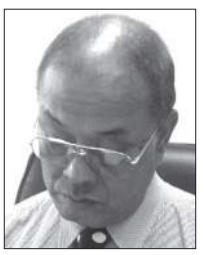
Stagnant or lower wages, lost flexibility and reduced economic output—that's a high price to pay for what would likely be only a marginal decline in the so-called wage gap.

I'm not saying gender- and race-based pay discrimination is nonexistent. But individuals who encounter discrimination have both the law and the free market—which penalizes employers who discriminate—on their side.

Rather than promote the dishonest narrative that women make less than men for doing the exact same job, let's celebrate the gains women have made in education, income, and career choices over recent decades. And let's promote policies that increase opportunities and incomes for all workers.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wrestling with famine



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Heard the views of elected officials about our fast-receding financial resources here. A $30 million shortfall must have jolted their nimble wits.

Interesting the mixed reactions that include "gross financial mismanagement" and "bankruptcy" stirring discussion on the gravity of the issue. Is it frustration, insinuation, amnesia, or fair warning of deteriorating fiscal conditions here?

With fiscal uncertainty, a legislator quizzed "where do we go from here…" and can the NMI meet plans to secure line of credit to meet its obligations on time?

Another cited the administration trumpeting a robust economy late last year. Quizzes how did it shift so quickly into a $30 million deficit?

I think this is attributable to cost associated with storm recovery efforts and departure of Nippon investments. The former is recoverable the latter is basically history, sayonara. How do we navigate such a huge financial loss?

Mind-boggling! Time for prudent spending to the hilt lest we'd be selling broken pencils all over. Our suspect fiscal condition merits constructive ocular review to figure out the beast. After all, it's about money for the continued health care of our people and the education of our children!

Short: Agency fund shortage is very discouraging. Isn't this indicative of revenue generation going south? Doesn't it obviate dire economic conditions moving forward?

Understood the challenges after storms and exit of Nippon investments. But has the elected elite found the root cause of revenue degeneration? One just exited permanently, get that, pal?

Most importantly, any ideas or plans how to recoup losses in the billions of dollars beyond simple apprehension and taller than Abe Lincoln speeches? Or do we hum it to death with la mañana?

We may recover from storms, but is there a chance to recoup the billions of dollars in Nippon investments that recently took one last sayonara? Its recovery is one woefully stubborn foe the elected elite seemingly treated with complacency. It's gone, its recovery, nada!

Destruction of storms and exit of investments combine for nothing less than $14 billion in revenue loss. Does it matter to the men of wisdom on Da Hills of Saipan? Or are you still composing and rehearsing, "not yet, already?"

I sense this as the most powerful financial earthquake we seem to have ignored in favor of convenient arrogance and ignorance! Geez! Depth of perception is the obvious missing link here. Call it untimely loss met by arrogance and ignorance to our eventual demise!

Task: Leadership is the ability to improve the quality of life of people you represent. In this connection, let's challenge so-called leadership on the hill to improve the poverty income level of nearly 15,000 employees languishing in poverty land. Or is your compass cracked and dysfunctional?

Is this obligatory fiduciary duty something you could do now or "not yet, already?" If not now, when? Any further postponement only aggravates hardship of families at home. Is this too hard to understand what the 15,000 employees had to endure daily stuck in poverty income level? I'm our collective and constructive minds could lead this setback into hopeful tomorrows.

Coconut: A news article says clinical trials on the use of virgin coconut oil in ketogenic diet as supportive treatment for cancer has been shown to be highly promising under a clinical trial at the Paracelsus Medical University in Salzburg, Austria.

"VCO is a recognized source of beneficial fatty acid metabolized in the liver as ketones in ketogenic diets.

"The target in the PMU clinical trial is for ketogenic diet to achieve the 'Warburg effect,' where cancer cells are prevented from using glycolysis to produce the organic chemical ATP (adenosine triphosphate) needed in the multiplication of cancer cells.

"Based on the results of rigorous preclinical and clinical studies performed thus far, the ketogenic diet would appear to be a promising and powerful option for adjuvant therapy for a range of cancers," PMU said.

"The PMU clinical trial reported anti-tumor effect of ketogenic diet in 10 types of cancer. These are glioblastoma, astrocytoma, medulloblastoma, prostate cancer, colon cancer, neuroblastoma, pancreatic cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, stomach cancer and liver cancer."

Now let's get one thing straight: use of VCO is under clinical trial. So hold on to going out under the trees to pick your coconut as yet. Okay? Also, visit Dr. Webster for the term "ketogenic." I understand it to mean a component that prevents cells from forming into cancer.

What is Vladimir Putin afraid of?

By ELI LAKE
BLOOMBERG NEWS

By all outward appearances, Vladimir Putin's hold on power seems secure.

His party won the 2018 elections with 77 percent of the vote. He has consolidated his control of the Russian media. Most of his rivals have either died or been driven into exile. Now he can deploy his country's wealthiest oligarchs to pursue the Kremlin's agenda—just as he did after U.S. President Donald Trump won the 2016 election.

So why is the Russian president so scared?

One might think an autocrat who has rigged his nation's political rules to stay in power would have little to fear from dissidents. Allowing a nominal opposition might even have benefits, such as relieving economic pressure from the U.S. and its allies in the West and making it easier for his henchmen to spend their fortunes.

Nevertheless, Putin remains afraid of dissent. Consider a report released this week by the Coalition to Free the Kremlin's Political Prisoners. Composed of a dozen Western and Russian non-governmental organizations, the group found that as of March 25, Russian jails held 236 political prisoners. That is more than five times the political prisoners Russia held in 2015, when the total was just 46.

At a press conference Monday, exiled opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza provided yet more perspective for that figure. When the famous physicist and dissident Andrei Sakharov won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975, he claimed the Soviet Union held 176 prisoners of conscience. It's extraordinary to think that today, nearly 30 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia holds one-third more.

Today's Russian political prisoners include journalists, activists and lawyers. Some are falsely charged with serious crimes such as murder and embezzlement. Others are in jail for their tweets.

In November 2017, for example, Yan Sidorov and Vladislav Mordasov were arrested for trying to organize a protest of their regional government. They have been in custody ever since, and the report says Mordasov has suffered multiple beatings. There is also the case of Oleg Sentsov, a Ukrainian filmmaker and critic of Russia's annexation of Crimea. He was sentenced to prison for allegedly plotting terrorist attacks and belonging to a Ukrainian nationalist group, an affiliation denied by the group itself. He confessed to those crimes after being tortured, according to several human rights groups.

Natalia Arno, the president of the Free Russia Foundation (a member of the coalition that produced the report), told reporters this week that the spike in political prisoners raises questions not only about the Russian state but also about its leader. "What is Vladimir Putin afraid of?" she asked. It's a question governments looking to counter Russian aggression might want to ask as well. Putin may project strength and daring, but he doesn't trust his people enough to let them hear any of his critics.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy. He was the senior national security correspondent for the Daily Beast *and covered national security and intelligence for the* Washington Times*, the* New York Sun *and* UPI.

RALLY

From Page 12

National security adviser John Bolton urging the military to side with Guaido may technically be right, but he's hardly the best person to say it.

Conversely, President Trump may have struck just the right tone in focusing America's attention and influence elsewhere: Charging Cuba with engaging in military operations in and sending thousands of counterintelligence advisers into Venezuela, Trump threatened heightened sanctions and a full-fledged embargo unless those operations come to a halt "immediately."

Good for him.

Juan Guaido and the Venezuelan people must find a way get Maduro out. Minimizing outside interference—whether it comes from the U.S., Cuba (or erstwhile patrons Russia and China)—is best for all concerned.

(c)2019 *New York Daily News*

Let's recycle those caps and gowns

By JONATHAN DALE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

After a lonely, difficult slog taking roughly one class per semester online for six years, I recently completed work toward a master's degree in library and information science at San Jose State University.

I'm not normally one for pomp and circumstance, but I'm proud of this academic achievement, so I made the decision to fly back to San Jose in May to take part in graduation ceremonies in front of my family.

But when I looked into renting a cap and gown for the event, I was disappointed to find out that San Jose State does not offer any such option. I was instead directed to the Herff Jones website, where I discovered that the cap, gown, hood, and tassle I was required to wear would cost almost $150 by the time everything was shipped to me. This seemed like a lot to pay for garb I would wear one time for a couple of hours.

And where will this one-use graduation regalia end up? In the trash, along with most of the caps and gowns seen on stages across the country this spring. By one estimate, more than 100 million polyester gowns have been added to the waste stream in the last 30 years.

Some gown manufacturers sell "biodegradable" gowns made from recycled plastic bottles, but this is little more than a PR stunt; without a way to recycle the gowns themselves, the final destination for these materials is ultimately still the landfill.

If it sounds like there is a business opportunity here for someone wanting to start an eco-friendly graduation regalia recycling and rental business, there is – but only if schools are willing to participate on the rental side of the business.

When I called Seth Yon, former CEO of the now-defunct company Greener Grads, he said he was very successful at getting schools to participate in cap and gown recovery programs, but the schools dragged their feet when it came to implementing the rental piece.

"They weren't real interested in the rental side and just kept selling new regalia," Yon said. "Without a rental component, you can recover all the used caps and gowns in the world, and it just doesn't matter."

Yon should know because he still has a warehouse full of used caps and gowns that he can't bring himself to take to a landfill. All the regalia has been cleaned and is ready to be reused, but he can't find schools willing to take the materials.

It's disappointing that a major university system in an environmentally conscious state like California seems content to perpetuate a business model that is plainly bad for the environment, but it's easy to see how this happens. Gown manufacturers and university bookstores make money on the sales of new graduation regalia, and disgruntled students like me graduate and move on to other things.

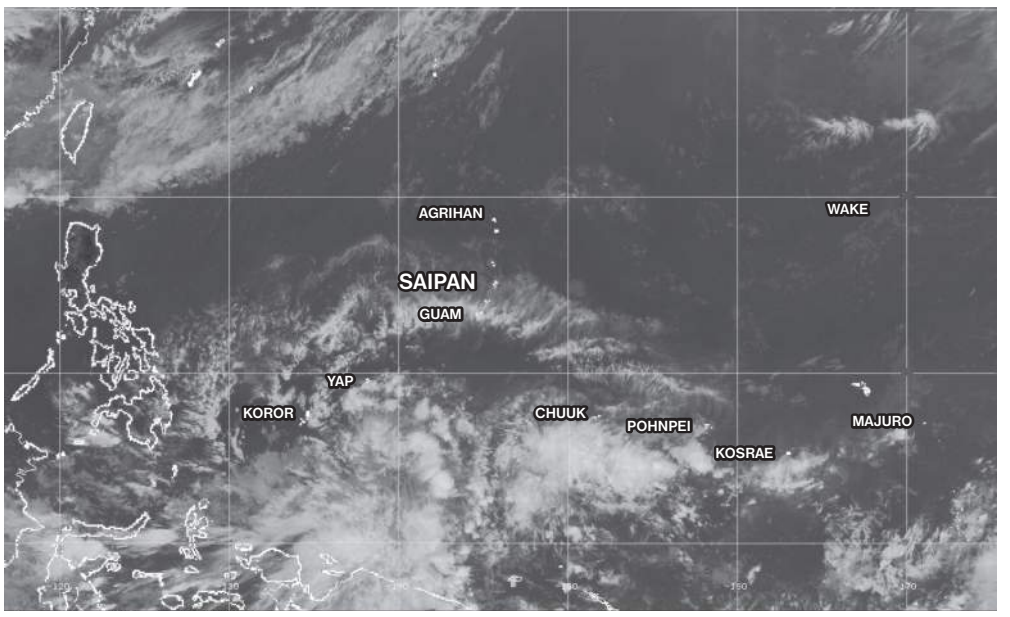
Jonathan Dale lives in San Diego, where he is working as an information and communications consultant.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:25 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Early morning satellite and radar imagery show only a few clouds and isolated showers over and to the east of the Marianas. Models do show patches of showers passing across the Marianas during the forecast period but shower coverage will remain isolated at best. Model rainfall accumulation through the forecast adds up to three quarters of an inch or less. Models hint at a slight increase in moisture by mid month but for now a dry season weather pattern will remain in place.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Showers	85° / 79°
Yap	Rain	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 57°
Beijing	Rain	70° / 55°
Hong Kong	Showers	81° / 71°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 71°
London	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	74° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
New York	Showers	61° / 58°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 55°
Rome	Cloudy	64° / 54°
Salem	Thunderstorms	85° / 66°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 49°
Seoul	Sunny	75° / 46°
Tokyo	Sunny	73° / 57°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 68°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:38 AM	LOW TIDE	0.57
6:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.89
1:14 PM	LOW TIDE	0.28
7:18 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.78

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Friday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Friday	4:42 AM	5:10 PM	-
Saturday	5:21 AM	6:00 PM	-
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:53 PM	-
Monday	6:46 AM	7:48 PM	-
Tuesday	7:33 AM	8:45 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 27, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

SKY801	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily up to May 3

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

SKY01K	10:30am	3:15pm	Daily up to May 3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

‘Flu season is still here in the CNMI’

It’s already May. Isn’t the flu season over? Unfortunately, the answer is no for the CNMI.

Based on the flu surveillance of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., health officials are seeing higher than usual confirmed cases of flu for the fifth week in a row.

Last week, there were 50 cases of confirmed flu diagnosed in the CNMI.

A total of 9 percent of doctors’ visits in the CNMI are for flu and flu-like symptoms; this is about three times higher than the U.S. national average of 2.8 percent doctor’s visits for flu-like symptoms.

The majority of CNMI cases are in children, age 0-19 years old, but especially in the very young (0-4 years old).

Most of the cases are in those who have not had the flu vaccine or in the case of young children, had only one out of the necessary two flu shots.

“We have also noticed that if there is one confirmed flu case in a family, other members in the family easily get the infection too,” according to a CHCC statement issued Wednesday.

“Because of the ongoing high rate of flu in our region, it is highly encouraged that you immunize yourself and your children against the flu as soon as possible.

I’m an adult. Why do I need the flu shot?

Healthy adults can still get very sick from the flu.

The flu vaccine prevents millions of illness and flu-related doctor’s visits. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has shown that the flu vaccine reduces the risk of having to go to the doctor with flu-like symptoms by 40-60 percent.

If you have chronic illnesses such as asthma, COPD, or diabetes, getting a flu vaccine further prevents the risk of having exacerbations or hospitalizations as complications from these diseases. It can also reduce your risk of having a heart attack since an acute flu illness has been shown to increase stress on the heart.

When you get immunized with the flu vaccine you don’t just protect yourself, you protect others around you. Babies, older people, and people with certain medical conditions might not be able to get the flu vaccine, but if you are immunized then they are less likely to contract it from you.

What’s the difference between a cold and flu?

The common cold and flu are both caused by viruses. Those with flu are usually much sicker. With flu you usually get fever, chills, generalized weakness, muscle aches, cough, and headache.

Vaccination is key to health

The regional flu uptick is projected to continue for several more weeks. If you have any questions regarding flu vaccination, including where to get one, contact the Commonwealth Health Center’s Immunization Clinic at:

Saipan: 236-8745
Tinian: 433-9263
Rota: 532-9461 ***(PR)***

Misconceptions about the flu vaccine

1) I got the flu shot and then got the flu.

Flu vaccines do not cause the flu. The flu vaccine being given is “inactivated,” meaning the virus is dead and therefore cannot cause the flu. One reason for the temporal relationship between getting the flu shot and getting the flu is that it takes at least two weeks for the flu vaccine to work. This is because our immune system takes time to “prime” our body to recognize and fight off the flu virus. In the meantime, we might be exposed to the flu and get it while our immune system isn’t ready to fight it off.

Another reason is that there are actually many types of flu strains: H1N1, H3N2, etc. Each year flu experts make a prediction on what type of flu strains should be covered in the flu vaccine, but they don’t always get it right. You might have had the flu shot, but then be exposed to a different strain that the flu vaccine does not cover. Or even if the flu vaccine covers your specific flu strain, your immune system didn’t have time to develop adequate antibodies (soldiers for your immune system) to fight off the specific flu strain “enemy.”

2) The flu vaccine will mess with my immune system. I want to allow my body the “natural way” to respond.

Our body’s ability to respond to infection is the same, whether it is through direct exposure to infection or through vaccination. Essentially, our immune system has to be given the antigen (think of it as a picture of the enemy), only then can our immune system make out what exactly the enemy is. Wouldn’t you rather deal with a “dead” enemy through a vaccine so that it will allow your immune system (army) to equip itself in a gradual and complete manner, rather than hurriedly put together a rushed “army” to fight an active enemy (active infection)?

3) I never got the flu shot and I never got the flu.

There will be a first time for everything. Why risk missing work, infecting others, getting pneumonia, hospitalization, or even death if you don’t have to?

4) Doesn’t the flu vaccine have mercury in it?

No. Flu vaccines in single-dose and pre-filled syringes (the ones we use in CNMI) do not contain any thimerosal or other mercury products.

5) I’ve heard that the flu vaccine can cause autism?

Multiple studies including from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Institute of Medicine have dispelled this misconception. There is no link between autism spectrum disorder and vaccination of children. ***(PR)***

STARTING ’EM YOUNG

Children are always welcome to join the monthly cleanup of PDM Promoters. According to cleanup drive coordinator Sonia G. Siwa, “We always include children in our cleanups to encourage them to be responsible and become less likely to throw trash…themselves.” Last Saturday’s cleanup involved 15 Saipan Awaodori Team members and nine Kinpachi Restaurant staff. A total of 240 lbs of trash were collected during the April cleanup. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Honolulu District BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release Honolulu District Public Affairs: 808-835-4004

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hosting Public Meeting for Talofofo Former Hospital Dump Site Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii (May 3, 2019) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will convene a public meeting to engage public participation regarding the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001) located at Talofofo, Saipan.

A presentation will be shown to provide an overview of the investigation process and the development of the study for the project site.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your comments and to answer your questions regarding elements of the project.

Meeting Date: Friday, May 10, 2019
Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m.
American Memorial Park - Visitors Center Theater, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

You may also submit written comments regarding the project to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Honolulu Engineer District
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E (Lori Wong)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
or
Fax: 808-835-4129.
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Labor

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email Elaine Pangelinan: elaine.pangelinan@gmail.com;
Sidney Camacho: scamachodolosha@gmail.com

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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

NMI Museum updates

The NMI Museum turns 21 and the process of upgrading and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of services we deliver continues. Despite the many challenges, I would like to thank the Governor and Lt. Governor for their support and confidence in me heading the museum.

I would like to thank the Legislature, Mayor Apatang, MVA, and our sponsors for all the support they provide the museum.

I would like to provide our residents with some information on our developments, progress, and schedule of upcoming events.

1990's COMPREHENSIVE MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

During the late 1990's, the CNMI Government awarded a grant to Pete A. Tenorio to produce the "Comprehensive Museum Development Plan. The plan was developed in conjunction with Elizabeth Rechebei of EDR and Associates, Dr. David Tuggle-International Archaelogical Research Institute, Jan Bell-Curator of Collections at Arizona State University, William Maui-Data Talks, and Herman B. Cabrera and Associates.

The plan was a tool guide used by the CNMI Government to develop the Saipan, Rota and Tinian master plans for the government owned cultural museums. The plan outlined that the minimum initial funding needed to operate the government owned museum would be at least $500,000, which subsequently increases by 5% every year. I hope that in the near future, that this amount will be the baseline used.

GALAIDE GROUP TO UPGRADE NMI MUSEUM

New Guam Museum

The Galaide Group will be upgrading the NMI Museum and creating a new story line. During the last board meeting, the Board of Governors approved my proposal. The upgrade is very important because it has been quite some time that a story line has been created and museum exhibits been refreshed.

Despite the limited space the museum possesses, we are excited for this long-awaited and must have upgrade to happen. The upgrade will capture and better showcase our local culture, pottery, weapons, and other artifacts that will give more interests and curiosity to our guests.

Upon completion of the upgrades guests can also expect to see additional large format pictures, interactive television.

We are just waiting for the payment to be processed by the Department of Finance so the company can begin the transformation process.

OLD JAPANESE LABORATORY TO BE USED AS A COFFEE SHOP & GIFT SHOP

The repairs to the old Japanese Laboratory are close to completion. The interior painting and other finishing work should be completed within days. I extend my gratitude to the MVA Board of Directors, former Managing Director Chris Concepcion, Acting Managing Director Judy Torres and Product Development Manager-Tatiana Babauta for their continued support of the museum and the grant award that allowed me to preserve this important building.

The building will be repurposed and serve as a coffee shop and an extension of our gift shop. We are optimistic that the coffee shop and gift shop will help generate much needed revenue.

CULTURAL HUTS

We will begin on the construction of 14 cement slabs and the install temporary cultural huts that will provide a venue for local artists to display, sell local products and educate our visitors. Once completed, I will finalize discussions with the DCCA Secretary, the Arts Council, Indigenous and Carolinian Affairs Office to coordinate events on our grounds.

The museum will collaborate with the Saipan Mayor David Apatang and other stake holders to have events utilizing both the Sugar King Park and our grounds.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS VISITING NMI MUSEUM:

I would like to thank Koblerville Elementary class for the recent visit to the museum. The museum is continuing to receive confirmation from other schools and we are pleased to always welcome and accommodate our young students.

May 9-Garapan Elementary School
May 17-Hopwood
May 21-Hopwood

UPCOMING EVENTS TO BE HELD AT THE NMI MUSEUM:

- MAY 11- MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL CAR WASH
- MAY 31- MVA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP EVENT
- JUNE 11-HUMANTIES COUNCIL 75TH WW II ANNIVERSARY

THE NMI MUSEUM IS OPEN:

Monday to Friday:	9am to 4pm
Saturday:	10am to 4pm

KCNM-KZMI donates airtime to HANMI golf tourney

Radio station KCNM-KZMI has joined the rank of sponsors for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament that's happening on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course, donating $600 in airtime that has helped sell out the event.

"Thanks to our faithful players and sponsors such as KCNM-KZMI, I'm pleased to report we have full house already signed up for this year's HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament," said tournament chair Steve Balakrishna. "We have a full 144 registrants and a number more [on] the waiting list. Really, the support has been extraordinary, and we are grateful."

HANMI

KCNM-KZMI donates $600 in airtime to the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament scheduled for May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. From left, tournament committee chair Steve Balakrishna, KCNM-KZMI traffic director Jaime Hemley; tournament committee member Catherine Perry, HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh, and tournament committee members Rommel Bartolo, Socorro Huliganga, and Das Krishnan.

The tournament follows a black-jack double Peoria format. Over $100,000 in cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners.

"KZMI-FM 103.9 has been known as the CNMI's first & favorite radio station for more than 30 years," said station general manager Bob Webb.

He describes KZMI as a "Hot Adult Contemporary" formatted station that crosses over all traditional demographics and ethnic groups.

"KZMI is a mix of today's hottest music with a scattering of yesterday's hits," said Webb. "KZMI is dynamic and listener-friendly and showcases all the excitement of a hit music format while still addressing the needs a family-based audience. KZMI keeps its listeners informed with USA Radio News, an award-winning 5-minute news broadcast throughout the day."

For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including Accurate Drive on Line (#9), Accurate Drive Circle (#5), Aggressive Drive (#12), Longest Drive (#18), and Nearest to the Pin (#3, #7, #13, #17).

Additional hole-in-one prizes include $20,000 from Century Tours, $20,000 from LT Tours, a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross from Triple J Motors, $5,000 from Pacifica Insurance, and a first-class, roundtrip airline ticket from Saipan to Shanghai or Guangzhou from Saipan Travel Inc., and $2,500 from Traders Insurance.

The tournament will start at 7am. Players will enjoy an awards banquet at Grandvrio Resort Saipan at 6pm.

For more information, contact Balakrishna at steve.balakrishna@picsaipan.com or 1.670.234.7976 or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. ***(PR)***

PBS Guam awarded $500K grant to upgrade equipment

MANGILAO, Guam—The Guam Educational Telecommunications Corp., also known as PBS Guam KGTF Channel 12, was awarded a $500,000 Technical Assistance Program grant funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

This was the first time PBS Guam applied for TAP funding.

"This is terrific news. Ina Carillo chased down this grant opportunity within weeks of being appointed in January to manage KGTF," said acting board chair Donovan Brooks. "This will help us replace and upgrade studio production gear and make improvements to the studio. It will be a great morale boost for the station. I would like to thank Gov. Leon Guerrero for sending Carillo to KGTF."

Carillo herself said, "It's an exciting time to be at PBS Guam with a new executive producer and technical equipment upgrades soon to come, development of new educational local programming is on the way. The upgraded equipment will allow PBS Guam to be able to expand its programming to include a regular educational series focused on our culture as well as live sports programming. It will also allow us to partner with international and regional visitors who come to Guam to produce content."

Leon Guerrero said this is just the beginning for PBS Guam.

"We are confident in Carillo's leadership, and we cannot wait to see more local programming. Media messages matter, and when a child sees faces they relate to on TV, it helps develop their identity and understanding of who they are and where they come from," said Leon Guerrero.

TAP funding provides for development in areas such as accountability, financial management, economic development, education, energy, management control initiatives, disaster assistance, natural and cultural resources, capacity building, public safety/emergencies, health initiatives, and invasive species management. ***(PR)***

Magazine's Businesswoman of the Year program launches mentorship program

BARRIGADA HEIGHTS, Guam—*Guam Business Magazine* announced yesterday the launch of the Businesswoman of the Year Mentorship Program last April 27 at the 2019 Businesswoman of the Year gala at Hyatt Regency Guam.

The annual Mentorship Program serves to provide an opportunity for mentorship and development to former program scholarship recipients by connecting them with Businesswomen of the Year honorees of the *Guam Business Magazine*.

The program aims to add a further dimension for scholarship recipients; to provide a setting for businesswomen who have been awardees or recognized as nominees for their contributions to business to meet with young business professionals; and to create opportunities for scholarship recipients to engage in conversations with experienced and recognized leaders about (for example) professionalism, business practices and insights the mentors have gained that may be helpful to mentees. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CHLORINE GAS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-017

ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for
LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2019 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Taijeron takes over as Guam Air Guard command chief

Taijeron

Quinata

Chief Master Sergeant Philip S.N. Taijeron, Jr. will assume responsibility as command chief of the Guam Air National Guard, during a ceremony this Sunday, May 5, beginning at 9am, at the Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada. He will take over for Chief Master Sgt. John Quinata who retires after 38 years of military service. Quinata has been command chief since October 2016.

Taijeron began his military career in 1985 serving three years in the U.S. Army. He enlisted in the Guam Air National Guard in 2000 and attended Electrical Systems Apprentice Technical School at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in 2001. He was recognized as a top graduate at the completion of the course. He deployed in support of Operation Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom and was assigned to locations in South Carolina, Korea, Washington, Texas, Okinawa, Arizona, Mississippi, Alabama, United Arab Emirates, and Afghanistan.

Taijeron was the 254 Red Horse Squadron's Facility Systems superintendent. He managed civil engineers trained in the fields of electrical and mechanical systems maintenance; electrical systems power production; water and fuel systems maintenance; heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems maintenance; and pest management systems.

Prior to his role as Facility Systems superintendent, he functioned as the First Sergeant for the 254th Red Horse Squadron. In this role, he served as adviser to the squadron commander on matters concerning 172 Air National Guard civil engineers on issues related to morale, health, discipline, mentoring, well-being, recognition, and professional and leadership development of enlisted Airmen.

In his civilian career, Taijeron is employed by the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency as an assistant customs chief.

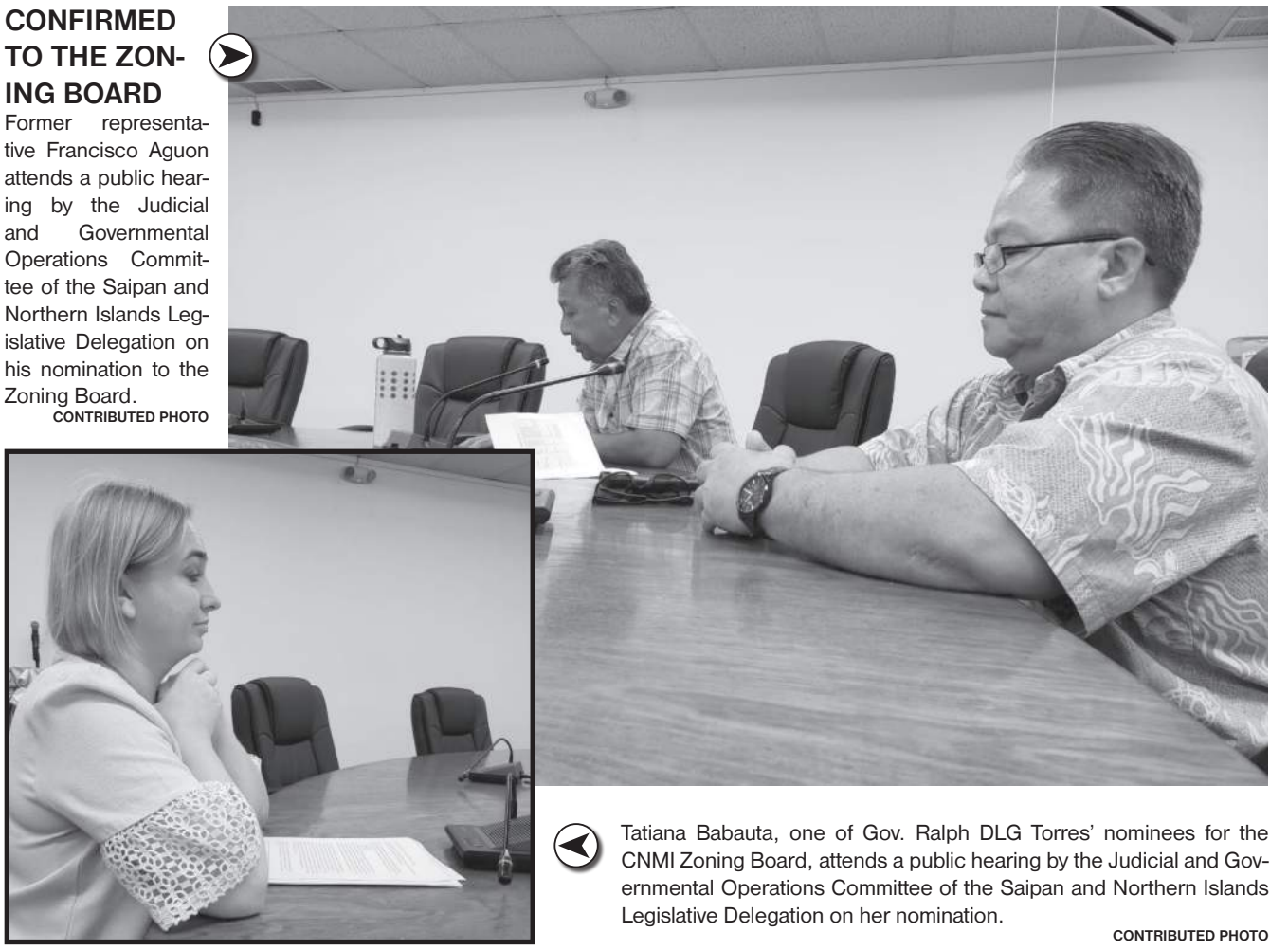
As command chief master sergeant of the Guam Air National Guard, Taijeron will be the highest enlisted airman, charged with managing the efforts of and mentoring of more than 300 enlisted airmen. He also serves as principal advisor to The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard on all enlisted matters, including issues affecting the command's mission and operations, and the readiness, training, utilization, morale, technical and professional development, and quality of life of all enlisted members in the organization.

Quinata has served as the Guam Air National Guard's command chief since October 2016 and will be retiring after nearly 38 years of service to Guam and the nation in a ceremony following the change of responsibility on Sunday. ***(PR)***

CONFIRMED TO THE ZONING BOARD

Former representative Francisco Aguon attends a public hearing by the Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on his nomination to the Zoning Board.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Tatiana Babauta, one of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' nominees for the CNMI Zoning Board, attends a public hearing by the Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on her nomination.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Construction Management Services for the Perimeter Security Fence Replacement at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at (670) 237-6500 and/or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than *Friday, April 26, 2019, 5:00 p.m.*, local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Christopher S. Tenorio
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 12, 2019

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

CRM COMMERCIAL WATERSPORTS PERMIT RENEWAL

THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) HEREBY GIVES NOTICE TO ALL COMMERCIAL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ON SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA THAT THE DEADLINE TO RENEW YOUR CRM COMMERCIAL WATERSPORTS PERMIT IS ON **MAY 30, 2019**.

ALL ACTIVE COMMERCIAL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A CRM PERMIT APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL ON OR BEFORE THE MAY 30TH DEADLINE.

TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR OFFICE AT THE:

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ)
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM)
PERMITTING SECTION
GUALO RAI CENTER, SUITE 303
CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, LOWER GUALO RAI

OR

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
www.dcrm.gov.mp

AMP Quarter Launch

PHOTOS By BEA CABRERA

U.S. Mint director David Ryder hands out a plaque to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios that contains a replica of the American Memorial Park quarter that was launched Tuesday at the AMP amphitheater on Beach Road in Garapan.

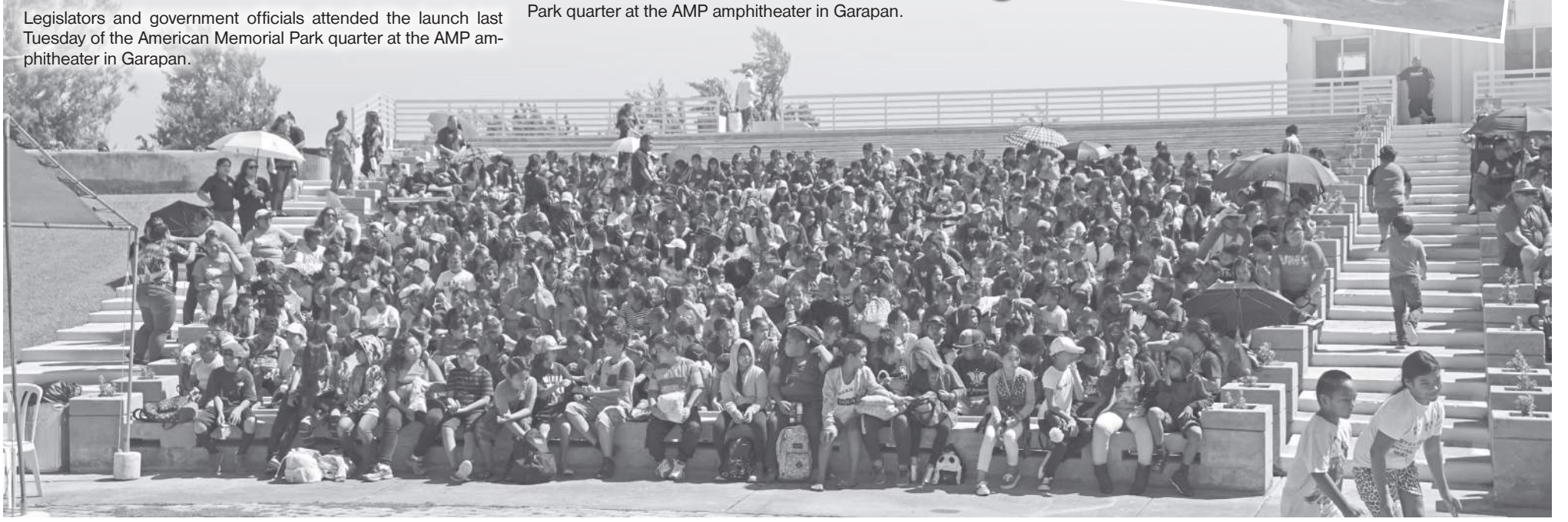
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres hands out American Memorial Park quarters to elementary teachers and students that attended the launch of the AMP quarter last Tuesday. The coin was launched for circulation in the U.S. and globally at the AMP amphitheater on Beach Road in Garapan.

U.S. Mint director David Ryder hands a plaque of a bigger version of the U.S. quarter that bears the American Memorial Park design to AMP superintendent Barbata Alberti at the launch last Tuesday of the AMP quarter at the AMP amphitheater in Garapan

Students from Garapan Elementary school walk to the American Memorial Park to witness the launch last Tuesday of the American Memorial Park quarter at the AMP amphitheater in Garapan.

Legislators and government officials attended the launch last Tuesday of the American Memorial Park quarter at the AMP amphitheater in Garapan.

A cultural dance performed by students from Kagman High School and Marianas High School was one of the opening acts of the launch last Tuesday of the American Memorial Park quarter at the AMP amphitheater in Garapan.



Hundreds of students from private and public schools attend the launch last Tuesday of the American Memorial Park quarter at the AMP amphitheater in Garapan.

Business

Trump GOP states ask appeals court to overturn 'Obamacare'

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Taking a harder line on health care, the Trump administration joined a coalition of Republican-led states Wednesday in asking a federal appeals court to entirely overturn former President Barack Obama's signature health care law—a decision that could leave millions uninsured.

Congress rendered the Affordable Care Act completely unconstitutional in 2017 by eliminating an unpopular tax penalty for not having insurance, the administration and GOP states told the court.

The "Obamacare" opponents hope to persuade the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans to uphold U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor's ruling late last year striking down the law.

If the ruling is allowed to stand, more than 20 million Americans would be at risk of losing their health insurance, re-igniting a winning political issue for Democrats heading into the 2020 elections. President Donald Trump, who never produced a health insurance plan to replace "Obamacare," is now promising one after the elections.

The Trump administration acknowledged it had changed positions in the case. Early on, the administration argued that only certain key parts of the ACA, such as protections for people with pre-existing medical conditions, should be invalidated. But it said other important provisions such as Medicaid expansion, subsidies for premiums and health insurance markets could continue to stand.

Wednesday, the administration said it had reconsidered in light of O'Connor's ruling. "The remaining provisions of the ACA should not be allowed to remain in effect—again, even if the government might support some individual positions as a policy matter," the administration wrote in its court filing.

The Justice Department's legal brief also seemed to be trying to carve out some exceptions. For example, the administration said the ACA's anti-fraud provisions should remain in effect.

The now-repealed fines enforce the law's insurance requirement, and without them the rest of the law cannot pass constitutional muster, the administration wrote.

O'Connor's ruling last December came in a case filed by Texas and a coalition of Republican-led states. He said that without a tax penalty, the law's requirement that most Americans have insurance is unconstitutional. Democratic attorneys general, led by California's Xavier Becerra, and the U.S. House of Representatives have appealed.

Legal battles aside, the Obama health law has remained remarkably stable. Even with the repeal of the law's tax penalty, 11.4 million people signed up for coverage this year, just a slight dip from 2018. The law's Medicaid expansion continues to insure about 12 million low-income people. And several million young adults are on their parents' health insurance as a result of the ACA.

The appeals court is expected to hold oral arguments in July. Meanwhile, the effects of the lower court ruling have been on hold pending appeals.

The last word on any decision to strike down the health care law almost certainly will come from the Supreme Court, which has twice sustained the 2010 health law. Chief Justice John Roberts and four more liberal justices who voted in favor of the law remain on the court. A court victory would fulfill Trump's goal of undoing the law, but it could be politically costly for the GOP by ending popular provisions such as protection for pre-existing conditions and coverage for young adults on their parents' health plans.

Casino panel hopes record $35M Wynn fine serves as deterrent

BOSTON (AP)—The record $35.5 million in fines Massachusetts imposed on Wynn Resorts and its CEO reflect the many violations uncovered but are also meant to serve as a deterrent as the nascent state casino industry takes shape, Massachusetts regulators said Wednesday.

The state's Gaming Commission on Tuesday levied a $35 million fine on Wynn Resorts and another $500,000 on new CEO Matthew Maddox for failing to disclose years of allegations of sexual misconduct against company founder Steve Wynn. But the five-member panel allowed the company to retain its state casino license and open its $2.6 billion Encore Boston Harbor resort as planned in June.

"We do feel like that fine reflects the scope and multitude of the violations," Commission Chairwoman Cathy Judd-Stein said as the panel met in Boston the morning after delivering its long-awaited decision. "We were very mindful that it should serve as punishment to really address the violations. We also thought it was necessary to provide a message of deterrence to ensure future compliance."

The commission was focused on how long company officials were aware of the allegations and how they responded, rather than the truth behind the claims. Steve Wynn, who resigned as CEO last year, has denied the allegations.

The fines are due within 30 days and will be allocated according to the same formula all state gambling proceeds are distributed, she said.

That formula outlines 12 spending priorities, the largest of which are aid to cities and towns (20, transportation (15%), education (14%), the state's reserve fund (10%), and state debt and long-term liabilities (10%).

And while there is no commission process for appealing fines, the company can seek a state court review, Judd-Stein acknowledged.

Wynn Resorts released a statement Wednesday evening, saying that in "both its decision and in their meeting today, the Commission recognized the importance of the changes the company has made."

"With the Massachusetts Gaming Commission review complete, our company is now focused on a successful launch of Encore Boston Harbor," the company said.

The fine is the biggest imposed by any state casino regulatory agency, commission staff and industry experts said. The Nevada Gaming Commission in February levied a $20 million fine on Wynn Resorts that was the largest imposed at the time, they said.

The $35 million will certainly affect the company's bottom line this year, but it's a relatively small sacrifice, said Richard McGowan, a gambling expert at Boston College.

"Yes, the fine will hurt," McGowan said. "But the fact that the casino is a $2.6 billion project kind of dwarfs the fine."

Commission members Wednesday declined to elaborate on how they arrived at the specific dollar value for the fine.

Nation

Student who attacked gunman lauded

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—David Belnap stood on his North Carolina college campus aching from the latest U.S. school shooting as he held a candle and wore a homemade T-shirt with "Riley Howell is a hero" written on the back.

AP

In this May 23, 2017 photo provided by Matthew Westmoreland, Riley Howell, right, is seen.

Howell died in his classroom Tuesday at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, charging and tackling a gunman who would kill him and another student and wound four others with a legally obtained pistol, authorities said.

Howell's decision to fight for the lives of others fit his character, Belnap said Wednesday at a candlelight vigil on campus the night after the shooting.

"It seems very much like something he would do. I want that to be his legacy, that he lost his life to protect those he cared about," the sophomore said about his friend.

Howell, 21, likely went through the same active shooter drills as countless other students of his generation. They were taught to run away if they can, hide if they can't run and if the horrible situation arises where a gunman prevents those two choices — fight for their lives.

Howell knocked the assailant down, buying enough time for the first officer into the classroom to capture Trystan Andrew Terrell, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said.

The gunman had a lot of ammunition and while detectives aren't sure if he was targeting anyone specifically Tuesday, they know he picked out the Kennedy Building and gave no indication he was going to stop shooting before Howell charged, Putney said.

"His sacrifice saved lives," the chief said.

Howell was with classmates for end-of-year presentations in an anthropology class when the shooting happened.

In a statement, UNC-Charlotte said all the victims were students, five from North Carolina and one international. Howell, of Waynesville, and Ellis R. Parlier, 19 of Midland, were killed. Those wounded were Sean Dehart, 20, and Drew Pescaro, 19, both of Apex; Emily Houpt, 23, of Charlotte; and Rami Alramadhan, 20, of Saihat, Saudi Arabia.

Terrell, 22, was charged with two counts of murder, four counts of attempted murder and other charges. His first appearance in court was scheduled for Thursday afternoon.

The motive wasn't clear. Terrell had been enrolled at the school but withdrew this semester, UNC-Charlotte spokeswoman Buffy Stephens said. Campus Police Chief Jeff Baker said Terrell had not appeared on their radar as a potential threat.

"I just went into a classroom and shot the guys," Terrell told reporters Tuesday as officers led him handcuffed into a law enforcement building.

Terrell is under observation in police custody, and his father and attorney haven't been allowed to speak to him, his grandfather Paul Rold said.

Terrell was on the autism spectrum but was "clever as can be" and bright enough to learn foreign languages, Rold said from his home in Arlington, Texas. He said his grandson wasn't very social.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas officer charged with homicide for shooting black man

DALLAS (AP)—A Texas grand jury indicted a suburban Dallas police officer Wednesday on a charge of criminally negligent homicide for fatally shooting a black man during a traffic stop last year. The Tarrant County grand jury indicted Arlington Officer Bau Tran eight months after he shot 24-year-old O'Shae Terry in the Dallas suburb. The indictment marks a rare criminal prosecution of a police officer in the historically conservative North Texas county. It could draw greater attention to a case that was largely overshadowed by another in the same month in which a white Dallas police officer fatally shot a black man in his own apartment. Tran shot Terry on Sept. 1 after another officer pulled the Forest Hill resident over on a registration violation. After talking for several minutes, body camera footage shows Tran grabbing the passenger-side window of the SUV Terry was driving as it begins to roll up. The officer stepped on to the vehicle's running board as it started to move, pointed his gun into the SUV and fired multiple shots. Terry later died at a hospital.

Coroner: Woman obsessed with Columbine died before warnings

DENVER (AP)—A Florida teenager obsessed with the Columbine school shooting had already killed herself by the time authorities launched a manhunt for her after learning that she had traveled to Colorado just days before the 20th anniversary of the massacre, a coroner's report said Wednesday. An autopsy summary by the Clear Creek County coroner estimated that 18-year-old Sol Pais likely died on April 15—the day authorities said she flew to Denver from Miami. The FBI's Denver office said it learned of Pais' travel the following morning. Agents also learned the day after she died that Pais had gone directly to a gun store from the airport and purchased a shotgun and ammunition. Pais was already dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound by the time agents began retracing her steps, according to the coroner's initial autopsy findings. Chief Deputy Coroner Harriet Hamilton said Wednesday that the office is awaiting test results before producing a final autopsy report.

Asia

ON 1ST DAY AS JAPAN'S EMPEROR

Naruhito vows to pursue peace

TOKYO (AP)—Emperor Naruhito inherited the sacred sword and jewel that signaled his succession and pledged in his first public address Wednesday to follow his father's example by devoting himself to peace and sharing the people's joys and sorrows.

Naruhito, the first modern emperor to have studied abroad and the first born after Japan's defeat in World War II, formally acceded to the Chrysanthemum Throne at midnight after his father Akihito abdicated Tuesday.

"When I think about the important responsibility I have assumed, I am filled with a sense of solemnity," Naruhito said in his address.

While noting his father's devotion to praying for peace, Naruhito said he'll "reflect deeply" on the path trodden by Akihito and past emperors. He promised to abide by the constitution that stripped emperors of political power, and to fulfill his responsibility as a national symbol while "always turning my thoughts to the people and standing with them."

"I sincerely pray for the happiness of the people and the further development of the nation as well as the peace of the world," he said.

Naruhito is considered a new breed of royal, his outlook forged by the tradition-defying choices of his parents. Emperor Emeritus Akihito devoted his three-decade career to making amends for a war fought in his father's name while bringing the aloof monarchy closer to the people.

Naruhito's mother, Michiko, was born a commoner and was Catholic educated. Together, they reached out to the people, especially those who faced disability, discrimination and natural disasters.

AP
Japan's new Emperor Naruhito, followed by new Empress Masako, Crown Prince Akishino and Crown Princess Kiko, walks to make his first address during a ritual after succeeding his father Akihito at Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

Naruhito was presented with the imperial sword and jewel, each in a box and wrapped in cloth, at a morning ceremony that marked his first official duty.

His wife and daughter, Empress Masako and 17-year-old Princess Aiko, were barred from the ceremony, which only adult male royals—his brother, now Crown Prince Fumihito, and his uncle Prince Hitachi—were allowed to witness. Their guests included a female Cabinet minister, however, as the Imperial House Law has no provision on the gender of commoners in attendance.

The banning of female royals at the ceremony underscored the uncertain future of a paternalistic imperial family that now has just two heirs.

Nevertheless, Japan festively celebrated an imperial succession prompted by retirement rather than death. Many people stood outside the palace Tuesday to reminisce about Akihito's era; others joined midnight events when the transition occurred, and more came to celebrate the beginning of Naruhito's reign.

Dozens of couples lined up at government offices to submit marriage documents to mark the first day of Naruhito's era, known as Reiwa, or "beautiful harmony."

Thai king appoints consort as queen ahead of coronation

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn has appointed his consort as the country's queen ahead of his official coronation on Saturday.

An announcement Wednesday in the Royal Gazette said Suthida Vajiralongkorn Na Ayudhya is legally married to the 66-year-old king , and is now Queen Suthida.

Although she has been in the public eye for about three years, there has been little official information released about her and the news was a surprise to many Thais. She is reported to be 40 years old and to have previously worked as a flight attendant for Thai Airways International. The two reportedly met on a flight.

Suthida joined the palace guard in 2013 and became commander of the king's security unit, currently holding a general's rank. The new queen also has several top royal decorations.

Vajiralongkorn has had three previous marriages and divorced his previous wife, with whom he has a son, in 2014. He became king after the death in October 2016 of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Thai television, which broadcast the royal order Wednesday evening, showed a video of Suthida prostrating herself before the king. According to the announcer, she presented the king with a tray of flowers and joss sticks, and in return was bestowed traditional gifts associated with royal power.

TV showed the king in a white uniform and his bride in a pink silk traditional dress formally registering their marriage on Wednesday in his palace residence in Bangkok. The couple was seen signing a marriage certificate book, which was also signed by the king's sister, Princess Sirindhorn, and Privy Council head Prem Tinsulanonda as witnesses. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and other senior officials were also in attendance.

World

AS UPRISING ATTEMPT SPUTTERS

Venezuelans take to streets

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelans heeded opposition leader Juan Guaidó's call to fill streets around the nation Wednesday but security forces showed no sign of answering his cry for a widespread military uprising, instead dispersing crowds with tear gas as the political crisis threatened to deepen.

Thousands cheered Guaidó in Caracas as he rolled up his sleeves and called on Venezuelans to remain out in force and prepare for a general strike, a day after his bold attempt to spark a mass military defection against President Nicolas Maduro failed to tilt the balance of power.

"It's totally clear now the usurper has lost," Guaidó proclaimed, a declaration belied by events on the ground.

Across town at the Carlota air base near where Guaidó made his plea a day earlier for a revolt, intense clashes raged against between protesters and troops loyal to Maduro, making clear the standoff would drag on. There and elsewhere, state security forces launched tear gas and fired rubber bullets while bands of mostly young men armed with makeshift shields threw rocks and set a motorcycle ablaze.

"I don't want to say it was a disaster, but it wasn't a success," said Marilina Carillo, who was standing in a crowd of anti-government protesters blowing horns and whistles.

Opposition leaders hoped Guaidó's risky move would stir a string of high-ranking defections and shake Maduro's grip on power. But only the chief of Venezuela's feared intelligence agency broke ranks, while most others stood steadfast. Some analysts predicted that would make Maduro more emboldened.

The dramatic events could spell even more uncertainty for Venezuela, which has been rocked by three months of political upheaval since Guaidó re-energized a flagging opposition movement by declaring himself interim president, saying Maduro had usurped power.

Now the struggle has heightened geopolitical dimensions, with the United States and more than 50 other nations backing Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate president and Maduro allies like Russia lending the beleaguered president military and economic support.

U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton said Wednesday that Maduro is surrounded by "scorpions in a bottle" and that key figures among his inner circle had been "outed" as dealing with the opposition.

The United States contends Maduro had been ready to flee Tuesday, an airplane already on the tarmac, but was talked out of it by Russian advisers.

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Ministry, said such assertions were part of a "global information and psychological war against Venezuela and Caracas."

"There is no proof there was a Russian plane there," she said. "The U.S. is big on Venezuela and wants to bring this to an end but that cannot do that."

Protesters like Beatriz Pino, who took to the streets Wednesday waving flags and banging pots and pans, said they weren't entirely surprised by the military's response to Guaidó. She said the late President Hugo Chavez politicized Venezuela's military as he installed a socialist system. Despite the setback, she said she remained committed to the opposition's call for protest.

"We can't leave the streets," she said. "We've been in this for years."

As the standoff drags on, life is becoming even more difficult for Venezuelans, who are struggling with hyperinflation that has rendered salaries worthless as well as severe shortages of food and medicine that have driven about 3 million people to flee the country in recent years.

"We need to get out of this tragedy," said Ana Camarillo, a housewife.

David Smilde, a Venezuela expert, said the opposition's thus far unsuccessful attempt to trigger an uprising should provoke a round of reflection.

"Given the balance of power within Venezuela and the geopolitical struggle around it, they need to engage in real politics and real negotiations to move this conflict to a different place," he said.

At a large pro-Maduro rally Wednesday, ruling party leader Diosdado Cabello said that "as a bloc" Venezuela's military remained intact and united behind Maduro. He likened opposition leaders to "walking zombies."

WORLD BRIEFS

Saudi Arabia responding to Iran oil tanker emergency

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabia said Thursday it was responding to an emergency involving an Iranian oil tanker off the coast of Jiddah, and analysts said the vessel carried over 1 million barrels of fuel oil and might be leaking. There was no immediate report on the incident in Iran, which suffered an oil tanker disaster last year in the East China Sea that killed 32 sailors and now faces a U.S. pressure campaign over its oil sales. Saudi Arabia's state-run television channels and news agency said authorities received a distress call from the Happiness I over an "engine failure and the loss of control." The vessel had a crew of 26, including 24 Iranians and two Bangladeshis, Saudi state media said. They described the ship's position as some 70 kilometers (44 miles) south of Jiddah in the Red Sea. Saudi authorities said various government agencies were involved in the operation, including those who handle environmental protection. It did not elaborate on whether oil had spilled from the tanker.

Greek man arrested over child's freak Easter Sunday shooting

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek police say they have arrested a man suspected of firing his gun in the air during Orthodox Easter celebrations and accidentally shooting in the head an eight-year-old girl playing in an adjacent village. In a statement Wednesday, police said the 54-year-old faces charges of causing grievous bodily harm and possessing an unregistered firearm. The girl suddenly collapsed Sunday in her garden in Thespies, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) west of Athens—and 500 meters from the village where the Easter party was being held. A bullet was found lodged in her skull, and she remains in hospital in critical condition. Police said the bullet matched a handgun found hidden in the suspect's home. While illegal, celebratory gunfire at weddings and religious festivals is still popular in Greece.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man accused of flushing grandparents' ashes down toilet

MCKEESPORT, Pa. (AP)—Authorities say a western Pennsylvania man flushed his grandparents' ashes down a toilet after his mother kicked him out of her home. The Tribune-Review reports that Thomas Wells was arraigned Monday on two counts of abuse of a corpse and a criminal mischief charge. McKeesport police say the 33-year-old Pittsburgh man had been staying with his mother for a brief time before she asked him to leave last September. The mother told police in February that a relative told her Wells had flushed her parents' ashes before he left. The ashes were kept in a box in the mother's bedroom. Authorities say Wells told his mother he had not flushed the ashes down a toilet. But the mother says Wells later said he would flush her remains after she dies.

Report: Petty crooks' $5M UK lottery win raises suspicions

LONDON (AP)—For two friends with checkered pasts it was the luck of a lifetime: a 4 million-pound ($5.2 million) lottery win. But Mark Goodram and Jon-Ross Watson may see their celebrations cut short. The Sun newspaper reports that Britain's National Lottery is withholding the payout as it investigates whether the men, who have a string of criminal convictions, used illicit means to buy the winning ticket. The pair's social media accounts show them celebrating with cocktails and champagne, and they posed for a Sun photographer with their winning scratch card. The Sun said neither man has a bank account, leading lottery organizers to investigate how they obtained the bank-issued debit card that paid for the 10-pound ($13) card. Camelot, which runs the lottery, said Friday it couldn't confirm details of the story because of winner-anonymity rules. The firm said it holds a "thorough investigation" if there is any doubt about a claim. Goodram and Watson, from Bolton in northwest England, have a long history of run-ins with the law. They have both appeared on police-issued lists of "Bolton's most wanted" for failing to appear in court over assorted offenses including burglary and theft.

Squirrel initially scares, then snuggles with subway riders

BOSTON (AP)—A surprise passenger hitched a ride on a Boston commuter trolley, frightening some people at first, but warming their hearts when it willingly snuggled in a human passenger's arms. Commuters say a squirrel bounded onto a Red Line trolley Monday morning at an aboveground stop, prompting some passengers to hop onto their seats. Passenger Rosanne Foley, the executive director of the Boston Landmarks Commission, posted a Twitter photo of the squirrel resting on another person's arm. She tells boston.com someone even tried to feed the rodent a piece of granola bar. The rodent rider was let off by passengers at another aboveground station. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority spokeswoman Lisa Battiston commended the kindness of passengers but warned against interacting with wild animals on a train.

Wandering horse: Strolling mare causes stir in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Not far from the glass and steel towers of Germany's banking capital, a 22-year-old Arabian mare is causing a stir with her languid daily strolls through a Frankfurt neighborhood. Owner Werner Weischedel says his old nag Jenny, who's recently found social media fame after a local news show about it went viral, has been taking her 20-kilometer (12-mile) daily jaunts for 14 years—preferring to escape the confines of her home field to nibble on tasty vegetation on the Main river banks. "Everybody knows her," the 79-year-old said Tuesday. Jenny ambles along cobblestone streets and pedestrian paths, avoiding joggers, families and vehicles. Surprised newcomers occasionally call authorities, so she wears a note on her neck: "My name is Jenny, I didn't run away, I'm just going for a walk."

Wyoming man shoplifted at store, applied for job, police say

GILLETTE, Wyo. (AP)—Police in northern Wyoming say a man who allegedly shoplifted at the same store twice in one day also asked to fill out a job application during one of his visits. The Gillette News Record reported Sunday the 36-year-old man went to the Sportsman's Warehouse in Gillette and bought some items with a rewards card but allegedly took sunglasses and ammunition without paying for them. Police say he returned to the store a few hours later, asked to fill out the job application and left with two more pairs of sunglasses, allegedly without paying for them. Officers issued the man a citation for the alleged thefts and recovered the items. The suspect's name wasn't immediately available.

Man with moose nuggets in carry-on says politics stinks

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Politics can stink. That was the message delivered by a traveler to airport inspectors in Alaska who found moose nuggets inside his carry-on bag. KTOO Public Media reports the man told agents he collects the droppings and likes to present it "for politicians and their bleep policies." TSA spokeswoman Lisa Farbstein says the discovery didn't warrant writing a report and the man was sent on his way with the poop. It's not known if it was the same person, but a man was seen passing out baggies of moose nuggets at the Capitol on the same day as a protest against the governor's proposed budget.

Finders keepers? Police say no way after $30K spills on road

GRAND HAVEN, Mich. (AP)—Police in Michigan are appealing to people to surrender their instant riches after a box with $30,000 fell off the back of a truck. Authorities in Grand Haven say drivers stopped Thursday to pick up cash for themselves. Only $2,500 was immediately recovered and returned to the owner, who had forgotten that a cash box was on the truck's bumper. Traffic was backed up on U.S. 31 after money hit the ground. But by Saturday, more money was trickling in. The Department of Public Safety says two teenagers turned in $630, and a woman gave up nearly $3,900.

Baby sea lion rescued from busy California highway

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A baby sea lion wandered onto a busy highway in South San Francisco Tuesday, stopping vehicles and alarming motorists before officials whisked it away. SFGATE reports California Highway Patrol received the call around 8:30 a.m. Motorists had tried to shoo the sea lion to safer ground, with one man getting out of his car to herd the sea lion with a handkerchief. Highway patrol succeeded in getting the animal into a patrol car, where video taken by KGO-TV shows the sea lion bobbing its head in the backseat. The sea lion may have come from a nearby creek. It was taken to the Peninsula Humane Society and will be transported to the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California. The sea lion will then move to a rehabilitation pool to recover.

Science & Technology

Girls outscore boys on tech and engineering, even without class

Though less likely to study in a formal technology or engineering course, America's girls are showing more mastery of those subjects than their boy classmates, according to newly released national education data. PIXABAY

SEATTLE (AP)—Though less likely to study in a formal technology or engineering course, America's girls are showing more mastery of those subjects than their boy classmates, according to newly released national education data.

Known as "The Nation's Report Card," the latest findings made public Tuesday from the National Assessment of Educational Progress also shows U.S. eighth-graders in 2018 did significantly better overall compared to 2014's test results, particularly among students who are white, black, Asian or low-income.

The gap between girls and boys is also growing wider as compared to the last time the federal government compiled technology and engineering literacy data among a representative sample of students and public schools across the country.

The assessment made its debut in 2014, which also showed girls outscoring boys but by a smaller margin. In 2018, girls on average scored five points higher than boys on a 300-point scale, due to the fact that girls made gains between 2014 and 2018 while boys' scores stayed about the same.

Turning off forced Windows 10 updates

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: For the last year, my three-year-old Dell PC has been automatically forced to update its version of Windows 10. The update takes over my PC, but then always fails to install. That forces the PC to reboot. How can I get rid of this continued update attempt?

A: Microsoft won't help you with this problem, but there is a workaround.

What is wrong? One of the unpleasant aspects of Windows 10 is that updates to the operating system can't be declined, only delayed (how long varies with the version of Windows 10.) This is particularly unfortunate for people whose computers are incompatible with newer versions of Windows 10, because the update just keeps trying to install itself.

Why should your PC be unable to run a Windows 10 update? Dell may not provide the necessary "software drivers" for your PC model. To find out, look for your PC in Dell's list of models that are compatible with last October's Windows 10 update (see tinyurl.com/yyofsahz).

The not-approved-by-Microsoft workaround allows you to turn off Windows 10 updates using one of several free programs, such as Windows Update Blocker (see tinyurl.com/y6opf9ke), StopUpdates10 (see tinyurl.com/yybf6z5p) or Win Update Stop (see tinyurl.com/y9vw83wo).

Q: My old phone recently quit working, and I no longer have the login information for three e-mail accounts, two of them Google's Gmail and the other Microsoft's Outlook.com. I'll lose a lot of valuable data if I can't get back into these accounts. What can I do?

A: There are ways to recover your Gmail and Outlook.com accounts. But your success in reclaiming them will depend on how much of your personal information the accounts contain.

For instance, when you set up your e-mail accounts did you list a telephone number or another e-mail address where you could be reached? Did you answer security questions about yourself?

For Gmail accounts, go to the "account recovery" website (tinyurl.com/ycxdseck). There are also useful tips about how to answer the account recovery questions Google will ask (see tinyurl.com/y4hropxg).

For Outlook.com, go to the "recover your account" website (tinyurl.com/6ckxmya). Microsoft offers advice on filling out the account recovery form (see tinyurl.com/yc5y83zx).

Q: For 10 years, Facebook's "events" tab listed the names of friends who were having a birthday, enabling me to send them a message. Now the events tab shows "nothing scheduled yet." I don't want to send U.S. mail birthday cards to 527 friends, so how can I fix Facebook?

A: Facebook says you need to look in a new location for friend birthdays. Finding that location varies a bit depending on whether you use a web browser on a computer (see tinyurl.com/y2fn5qtd), a browser on a mobile device (see tinyurl.com/yxkjpwnq) or the Facebook app on an Android phone (see tinyurl.com/y28aj7hz) or on an iPhone (see tinyurl.com/y48cwjt9).

Life & Style

Drake breaks Taylor Swift's record at Billboard Music Awards

Mother's Day is in a couple weeks, but Drake gave his mom an early gift with a heartfelt speech at the 2019 Billboard Music Awards, where the rap star also broke Taylor Swift's record for most wins.

Drake turned up the love for his mom when he picked up top artist, besting Cardi B, Ariana Grande, Post Malone and Travis Scott. He won 12 awards Wednesday in Las Vegas, making his career total 27 (Swift has 23 wins).

He looked up to the ceiling as he held the trophy, then said: "I just want to thank my mom for her relentless effort in my life.

"I want to thank my mom for all the times you drove me to piano. All the times you drove me to basketball and hockey—that clearly didn't work out. All the times you drove me to 'Degrassi.' No matter how long it took me to figure out what I wanted to do, you were always there to give me a ride, and now we're on one hell of ride," Drake said.

Family bonding was a theme at the three-hour show, which aired live on NBC and was hosted by Kelly Clarkson

Ciara's young son and husband, NFL player Russell Wilson, danced along while she worked the stage, and Nick and Joe Jonas gave kisses to Priyanka Chopra and Sophie Turner of "Game of Thrones" fame when they sang in the audience before hitting the stage. Brendon Urie of Panic! at the Disco looked to his parents as he accepted top rock song, quoting the name of his current hit: "Hey look Ma, I made it!"

Mariah Carey's twins cheered her on as she sang a medley of her hits and accepted the Icon award. She was in diva form before taking the award from Jennifer Hudson, throwing her napkin on the floor after dabbing her face with it.

"Without getting into all the drama, all the ups and downs of my career ... I guess I always felt like an outsider, someone who doesn't quite belong anywhere, and I still feel like that lost interracial child who had a lot of nerve to believe I could succeed at anything at all in this world. But, and this is the truth, I did believe because I had to," she said. "The truth is I dedicated my life to my music—my saving grace—and to my fans."

Cardi B, the night's top nominee with 21, locked lips with husband Offset on the red carpet and the couple sat closely inside the venue. She won six awards, including top Hot 100 song for "Girls Like You" with Maroon 5.

"I remember when Maroon 5 hit me up to do this song. I was like, 'Bro I'm five months pregnant. I can't even breathe.' But this record to me was so amazing. I was like, 'Oh this is going to be a hit.' And now I sing this song to my daughter because she's the girl that I need," she said.

Drake and Cardi B—who both won multiple awards during the live telecast—used their speeches to promote love and appreciation for their peers in the music industry.

Others, too, brought on the positive energy when onstage. Imagine Dragons' band leader Dan Reynolds used his speech to highlight the dangers of conversion therapy on LGBTQ youth. He earned rousing applause. Florida Georgia Line's Tyler Hubbard followed suit, telling the audience after winning top country song: "In the spirit of so much truth being spoken tonight by so many talented artists, I think we should speak some truth."

"As artists we all get to experience so many unbelievable things, but in our opinion, at the end of the day, it's all for nothing if you're not using your platform for better ... to spread love, to help those in needs, to be a light to your community," he said.

Swift kicked off the show when she brought her new music video to life with a colorful, eye-popping performance of her song "ME!" Dancers wearing bright, pastel colors spun in the air holding umbrellas and a marching band kicked off Swift's performance—like most of the world, maybe she was inspired by Beyonce's new Coachella film?

Madonna, wearing an eye-patch, teamed up with Colombian singer Maluma for a performance, but it was Grammy-winning Christian artist Lauren Daigle who had the night's best performance. She sang "You Say," giving the audience a calm, yet strong and powerful performance. She was backed by three awesome background singers and a pianist.

BTS, who performed alongside Halsey, also had a major night. At the Billboard Awards and American Music Awards, the K-pop band had only previously won "social" awards based off their fanatic fan base, but on Wednesday BTS picked up top duo/group, besting Grammy-winning groups like Maroon 5, Imagine Dragons and Dan + Shay.

"I still can't believe we're here on this stage with so many great artists," RM said as fans screamed loudly. "We're still the same boys from six years ago, we still have the same dreams ... we still have the same thoughts. Let us keep dreaming."

An unlikely winner at the Billboard Awards? "Game of Thrones" actress Maisie Williams, whose plays Arya Stark on the HBO series and shined brightly on last week's episode.

"Shout-out to Arya Stark for putting in that work last week," Drake said onstage after winning his first award of the evening. ***(AP)***

WINNERS' LIST

A list of winners in the top categories at the 2019 Billboard Music Awards, held Wednesday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

- Top Hot 100 song: "Girls Like You," **Maroon 5 featuring Cardi B**
- Top Billboard 200 album: **Drake, "Scorpion"**
- Top artist: **Drake**
- Top new artist: **Juice WRLD**
- Top female artist: **Ariana Grande**
- Top male artist: **Drake**
- Top streaming songs artist: **Drake**
- Top song sales artist: **Drake**
- Top radio songs artist: **Drake**
- Top duo/group: **BTS**
- Top R&B artist: **Ella Mai**
- Top rap artist: **Drake**
- Top country artist: **Luke Combs**
- Top rock artist: **Imagine Dragons**
- Top Latin artist: **Ozuna**
- Top dance/electronic artist: **The Chainsmokers**
- Top Christian artist: **Lauren Daigle**
- Top gospel artist: **Tasha Cobbs Leonard**
- Top social artist: **BTS**
- Top touring artist: **Ed Sheeran**
- Chart achievement award: **Ariana Grande**
- Icon award: **Mariah Carey**

Hugs, tears mark taping of final 'Big Bang Theory' episode

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Hugs and tears punctuated the final taping of "The Big Bang Theory," a lovefest for its stars, crew and audience alike.

There were plenty of punchlines as well, as the true-to-form hit comedy about scientists and those who love them wrapped the two-part, hour-long finale that will air in mid-May on CBS.

"This show has touched so many hearts," an emotional Kaley Cuoco told the fans who filled a Warner Bros. soundstage Tuesday. She shared a comment made by series creator Chuck Lorre at a reading of the final script: " 'The Big Bang Theory' will live on in our hearts forever."

Johnny Galecki, who plays husband Leonard Hofstadter to Cuoco's Penny, thanked the audience and called the top-rated comedy's 12-season run "a dream come true for all of us."

It was definitely a pinch-me moment for those lucky—and persistent—enough to be on hand for episode No. 279. Some, urged by audience warm-up comedian and emcee Mark Sweet, paid tribute to the series that turned the really smart set into unlikely crowd-pleasers.

Malerie Shakter of Oakland, California, who works in the tech industry, said she's been inspired by the powerful female characters portrayed on the sitcom. She waited in line for 14 hours to get a seat, she said, adding, "I would do it all over again."

AP

Johnny Galecki, from left, Jim Parsons, Kaley Cuoco, Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar, Mayim Bialik and Melissa Rauch members of the cast of the TV series "The Big Bang Theory," show their hands after placing them in cement during a hand and footprint ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at in Los Angeles.

Jim Parsons, who stars as awkward genius Sheldon Cooper, had a key fan in attendance: His mother, Judy Parsons. The actor, a four-time Emmy winner for the role, looked relaxed and even broke into a few dance moves between shots.

Parsons is keeping ties to his character, as an executive producer of "Young Sheldon," the CBS spinoff about the future physicist's childhood in Texas that stars Iain Armitage in the title role.

The cast, including Simon Helberg, Kunal Nayyar and Melissa Rauch, lingered after taking their final bows. Mayim Bialik, who plays neuroscientist Amy Farrah Fowler, hugged Lorre tightly on the stage that was named after the series last February. A plaque outside the building commemorates other projects filmed there, from movie classic "Casablanca" to the TV series "Cheyenne" in the 1950s and 1960s.

The celebration continued Wednesday, as the stars put their handprints in cement at the TCL Chinese Theatre, a nearly century-old Hollywood salute to its famous citizens.

The "Big Bang Theory" episode taped Tuesday will air as the last half of a two-part finale on May 16. Also airing that night is "Unraveling the Mystery: A Big Bang Farewell," with Galecki and Cuoco hosting a behind-the-scenes look back at the show.

Remy Ma arrested on charges of punching reality TV cast mate

NEW YORK (AP)—Grammy-nominated rapper Remy Ma was arrested Wednesday on charges of attacking a reality show cast mate at a New York concert venue, a new round of legal trouble for a rapper still on parole from a 2007 shooting.

Her lawyer, Dawn Florio, called the new allegations false, saying the rapper was at home nursing her 4-month-old daughter at the time of the alleged attack.

"She's going to fight this to the end," Florio said.

The rapper herself declined to comment on the case after she was arraigned on misdemeanor assault and harassment charges and freed on $1,500 bail.

She left court hand-in-hand with her husband, the rapper Papoose. Friend and fellow hip hop artist Fat Joe also came to court to support her.

The 38-year-old rapper—known to the court as Remy Smith—turned herself in Wednesday to face accusations of punching "Love & Hip Hop New York" cast member Brittney Taylor in the face on April 16 at Irving Plaza, a downtown Manhattan music hall where Ma was performing for a benefit concert.

Taylor, who reported the incident the next day, suffered bruising to her right eye, authorities said.

"This arrest demonstrates how serious this matter is—it is real life and not reality TV entertainment," Taylor's lawyer, Sanford Rubenstein, said in a statement. He added that Taylor "has confidence in our system of justice and will continue to fully cooperate with the authorities."

Florio said that while Ma was at Irving Plaza that night, she was home at 9:30 p.m., when a criminal complaint says the attack allegedly happened. Many witnesses who were at the venue will vouch that Ma "had absolutely nothing to do with this incident," Florio said.

Lily Collins, Zac Efron take on the Ted Bundy story

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There is hardly any violence in the Ted Bundy movie "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile," which premieres on Netflix Friday and stars Zac Efron as the notorious serial killer. It was a deliberate choice on the part of filmmaker, Joe Berlinger, now something of a Bundy scholar with this fictionalized film and his popular Netflix documentary series, "Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes."

Berlinger believes that recreations of crimes have a "numbing effect" that desensitizes audiences.

Plus, "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile" is told from the point of view of Bundy's girlfriend, Elizabeth (Liz) Kloepfer, a single mom who dated Bundy for about six years starting in 1969 and through some of his trials. He was executed on death row in 1989.

Kloepfer believes in his innocence even while everything seems to point to the contrary.

"It's based on what Liz would have seen, which is nothing," said actress Lily Collins, who plays the part of Kloepfer. "In order to make the audience feel like they're in the mindset of Liz at the very end of the movie, you have to earn that. And it almost heightens the anxiety because you're teetering on the edge of 'is he or isn't he guilty?'"

Collins and Efron decided to take the leap into the darkness of this story together. The two have been friends for over a decade, going to back to when Collins was a teenage Nickelodeon reporter interviewing Efron and the cast of "High School Musical" on the orange carpet.

"We had talked about what type of projects we both wanted to do down the line," Collins said. "It was really exciting for me to see him taking that risk, and I thought to be a part of that felt really natural and very exciting."

Efron had his hesitations about taking the role.

"I had heavy reservations about playing a serial killer, especially one so popular as Ted Bundy," Efron said. "I didn't want to glorify or be a part of a project that glorifies any aspect of Ted Bundy or what he did. Nor am I interested in telling something just because it was true or shocking."

AP

This April 22, 2019 photo shows Zac Efron, right, and Lily Collins posing for a portrait at the Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles to promote their film "Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil, and Vile."

But the script, which Michael Werwie adapted from Klopfer's 1981 memoir, "The Phantom Prince: My Life with Ted Bundy," was different than he expected.

"I liked the idea of bringing attention to the element of Ted Bundy that was so charismatic, and who was able to win over the world and yet be so evil and duplicitous," Efron said. "I got to really take a look and feel it and it was very uncomfortable."

Collins was able to meet and spend time with Kloepfer and her daughter, who told her stories about their time with Bundy.

"There was so much love and so much trust between the two of them (Bundy and Kloepfer), or so-called trust," Collins said. "There are these two worlds that I think were really important to show in the film because that's the truth of it. The reality is that there were happy times. She was leaning so far into those happy times that she didn't see the other side until later, in the trials."

Neither Efron nor Collins are fans of the true-crime genre, which is booming on streaming services and in podcasts, but they understand why it's so popular. Efron noted that the Bundy case, which was televised nationally in the United States, may have helped contribute to the current obsession.

And both are sure they couldn't have taken something like this on any earlier in their lives.

"Honestly, if you would have asked me to try and do this a few years ago I don't think I would have been capable," Efron said. "I don't think I would've come out with solid product."

It's an experiment that has been paying off. Since the film's premiere at the Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, both have gotten critical praise for their performances, especially Efron's unsettlingly natural and transfixing portrayal of Bundy.

They're grateful, too, to have each other to bounce creative aspirations off of.

"People who are our age who are still around in the area and want to do constructive things?" Efron said. "It's not a lot of people."

Publicist: Jussie Smollett won't be at Chicago court hearing

CHICAGO (AP)—Jussie Smollett's publicist says the actor doesn't intend to be at a hearing on whether a special prosecutor will be appointed to investigate prosecutors' dismissal of charges against him.

Smollett was charged with felony disorderly conduct over allegations he staged a racist and anti-gay attack on himself in January in downtown Chicago. Publicist Hilary Rosen's comments came as Smollett's attorney filed a motion to quash retired appellate judge Sheila O'Brien's request to have Smollett appear Thursday in Chicago.

The Chicago Sun-Times reports that Smollett's attorney argues that the actor has moved out of Chicago and returning would force him to take "additional security measures."

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx is fighting the motion for a special prosecutor and trying to quash O'Brien's subpoena for her to appear at the hearing.

'The Mueller Report' is officially a best-seller

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Mueller Report" is now officially a best-seller.

A published edition of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged ties between Russian officials and Donald Trump's presidential campaign sold just under 42,000 copies last week, NPD BookScan reported Wednesday.

Jointly edited by Scribner and The Washington Post, it sold more than any nonfiction book on the BookScan list, which tracks direct store sales and reflects around 85% of the print market. The Scribner-Washington Post, released as a paperback, also will top The New York Times' combined print and e-book bestseller list that comes out Sunday, May 12.

Like such previous government documents as the Starr Report and the 9-11 Commission analysis, the Mueller Report was so highly anticipated that it become a popular book even though anyone can read it for free. (Numerous web sites, including The Washington Post's, offer downloads).

Scribner's edition has a list price of $15, while rival editions include a $12.99 book from Skyhorse and $9.99 from Melville House. The Scribner and Skyhorse books each offer additional material, such as introductory comments. Melville House is selling the report "as is," wanting readers to encounter it "without someone digesting it for them."

Pre-orders for the Skyhorse and Melville releases have placed them high at times on Amazon.com's best-seller list, but they so far have much lower numbers on BookScan, likely because they took longer to reach stores. Publishers have hurried to prepare bound editions of the report since it was made public two weeks ago. Wednesday's testimony by Attorney General William Barr, who faced sharp questions from Senate Democrats over whether he spun the report in Trump's favor, helped raise the Scribner book to No. 1 on Amazon. As of Wednesday night, Skyhorse was at 22 and Melville House at 130.

Son is gone but not forgotten after leaving clothes behind

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are seniors who look forward to visits from our adult children. The problem is our oldest son. He visits every few months and leaves belongings behind. He uses our guest room, where he has claimed much of the closet, several dresser drawers, the guest bathroom vanity and even part of our shed. He says he needs to leave things because it's too expensive to check bags when he flies into town.

We would like our guests to have space when they come to visit, and we are also trying to downsize and declutter. We have told him this repeatedly. We even resorted to mailing him back boxes of clothing, toiletries and other excessive amounts of his things to his home, hoping he would get the message. This is making my husband upset every time our son visits, and creating stress in our marriage as well. Please, we need your help.

SON HAS BAGGAGE IN FLORIDA

DEAR SON HAS BAGGAGE: Offer your son a couple of alternatives. The first would be to clear the counter in the guest bathroom and put his toiletries into a dopp kit kept out of sight. He should leave no more than one drawer full of his underwear, socks, etc. in the bureau and three changes of clothes in the closet. Any other items he will need can be brought in a backpack that can be stowed (at no cost) under his seat during the flight. If he can't do that, then he should follow your example—mail his things to you, and mail them back to his home when he leaves.

DEAR ABBY: I was diagnosed with celiac disease 13 years ago and have followed a strict diet since. In the past, I didn't tell my co-workers because food wasn't part of the job. However, I am now in a small department and we travel, so I have disclosed it.

My boss constantly harasses me for not eating any of the junk food he brings in (or why I don't eat all of the food when we eat out). I decline politely, but he keeps coming at me insisting that "it's OK to eat" and says I should just eat it because it won't make me sick.

I have pulled him aside a couple of times to explain celiac disease and provided him with good articles about it, hoping that reading them would have a bigger impact than my explaining. He has made some comments about how his wife follows "fad diets," and he thinks they are all crazy. I have explained how a restricted diet is the only treatment for celiac disease, but he is unrelenting in his harassment.

I don't know what my next step should be. I love my job, but this is getting in the way.

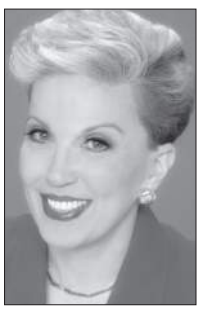
UNSURE IN WYOMING

DEAR UNSURE: Your boss's behavior is beyond inappropriate. What he is doing could be considered bullying. The kind of stress your boss is creating makes people sick. If the harassment doesn't stop, talk to HR about his creating a hostile work environment.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

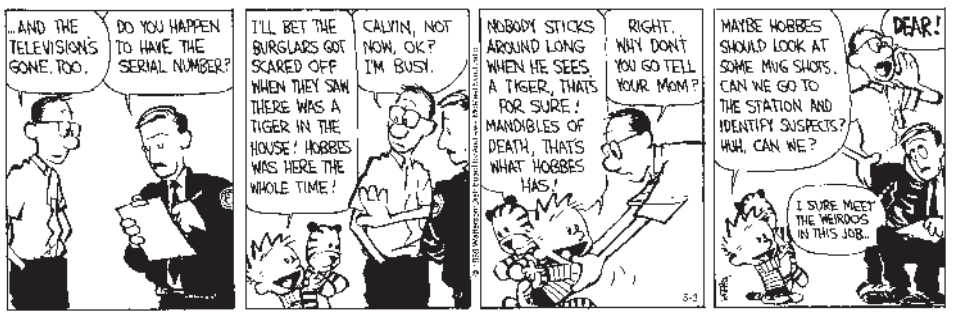


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


...AND THE TELEVISION'S GONE, TOO.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE THE SERIAL NUMBER?
I'LL BET THE BURGLARS GOT SCARED OFF WHEN THEY SAW THERE WAS A TIGER IN THE HOUSE! HOBBES WAS HERE THE WHOLE TIME!
CALVIN, NOT NOW, OK? I'M BUSY.
NOBODY STICKS AROUND LONG WHEN HE SEES A TIGER, THAT'S FOR SURE! MANDIBLES OF DEATH, THAT'S WHAT HOBBES HAS!
RIGHT. WHY DON'T YOU GO TELL YOUR MOM?
MAYBE HOBBES SHOULD LOOK AT SOME MUG SHOTS. CAN WE GO TO THE STATION AND IDENTIFY SUSPECTS? HUH, CAN WE?
DEAR!
I SURE MEET THE WEIRDOS IN THIS JOB..

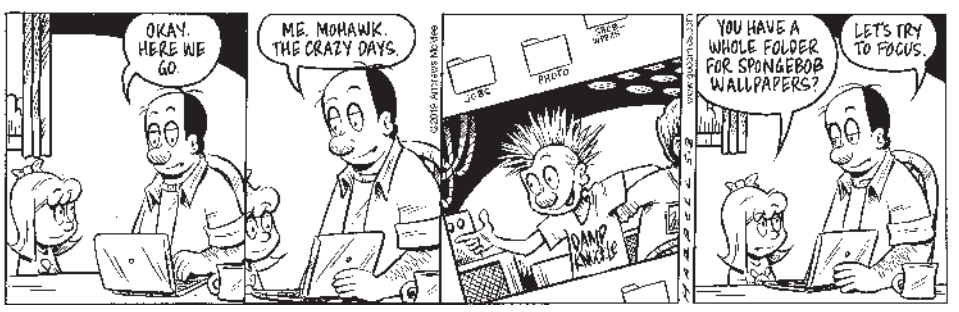
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

DO YOU THINK I'D MAKE A GOOD COWBOY?
WHAT IF A HORSE STEPS ON YOUR FOOT?
OH...
WELL, DO YOU THINK I'D MAKE A GOOD BALLET DANCER?
NOT WITH THAT LIMP
JIM DAVIS 5-3

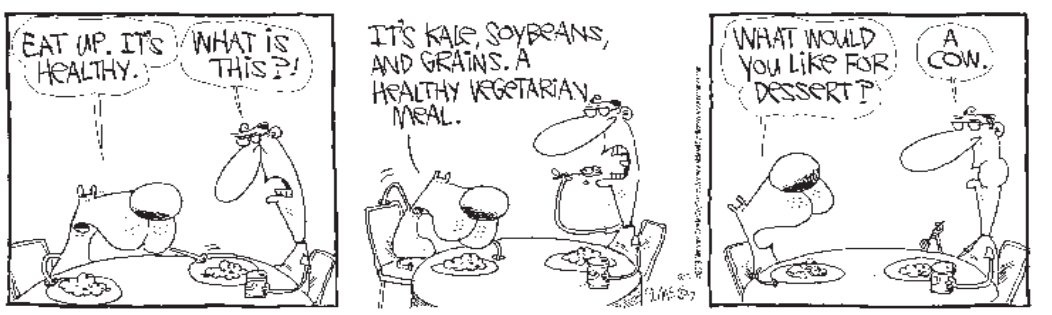
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


EAT UP. IT'S HEALTHY.
WHAT IS THIS?!
IT'S KALE, SOYBEANS, AND GRAINS. A HEALTHY VEGETARIAN MEAL.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR DESSERT?
A COW.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Justice Dept. agency
4 Physician's nickname
7 Grating
12 Vintage
13 Away from WSW
14 Mountain crest
15 Set afire
16 Yosemite peak featured in "Free Solo"
18 "CSI" evidence
19 Dewy
20 Billboard
22 Swiss peak
23 Bloke
27 Author Fleming
29 Abrasion
31 Planet circlers
34 Heart line
35 Coffeehouse bill collector
37 L-P link
38 Utah ski resort
39 "Yoo- —!"
41 Pottery oven
45 Quotable Yogi
47 Eastern path
48 Bygone Cadillacs
52 Copper head?
53 Tierney of "The Affair"
54 Superlative suffix
55 Texter's chuckle
56 Velocity
57 Irish actor Stephen
58 Decade parts (Abbr.)

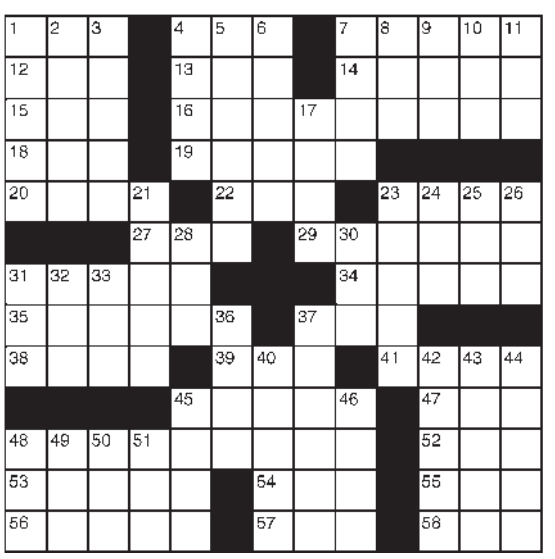
DOWN

1 Creates origami
2 Russian pancakes
3 Luggage attachment
4 Consider
5 Borrowed
6 Director DeMille
7 Engrossed
8 "Exodus" hero
9 Fixed
10 Sch. org
11 Hankering
17 Nile vipers
21 Martial arts warrior
23 Swindler
24 Guffaw syllable
25 Suitable
26 Green shade
28 Simile part
30 Paint container
31 1959 Kingston Trio hit
32 Texas tea
33 Choose
36 Mother of Zeus
37 Gloomy
40 Sequence
42 Tuscany setting
43 Hard work
44 Seasonal songs
45 Thin nail
46 Nick and Nora's dog
48 Ambulance initials
49 Napkin's place
50 Payable
51 Mine material

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	V		L	A	P	P		S	H	A	H
C	S	I		A	R	E	A		E	A	V	E
V		N	E	G	A	T	Y		R	H	O	S
		T	W	O		U	R	B	A	N	S	
D		N	E	O	N		P	O	I			
U	K	E		N	O	G		C	A	C	T	I
M	E	H	E		W	E	I		N	O	O	N
B	A	S	I	L		M	V	P		O	R	S
			C	A	G		S	A	V	A	N	T
W		T	H	O	U			L	I	U		
E	T	A	T		I	R	A	L	E	V	I	N
R	A	S	H			E	G	O		C	I	
E	L	K	S		D	E	A	H		N	U	I

Yesterday's answer 5-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ellie Kemper, 39; David Beckham, 44; Dwayne Johnson, 47; Christine Baranski, 67.

Happy Birthday: Take care of personal matters that can affect your financial, legal or health matters. Leave nothing to chance. Trusting others to look out for your best interests will not measure up to your standards. A change of attitude or to the way you handle your affairs will pay off. Your numbers are 4, 11, 20, 23, 27, 35, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Opportunity is heading your way. Channel your energy into getting what you want in all aspects of life. Wheeling and dealing will pay off, and celebrating with someone you love should be on your agenda. Keep personal secrets to yourself. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't make assumptions based on what others tell you. Transparency will be lacking when dealing with joint ventures. Protect your reputation and stick to the rules and regulations to avoid setbacks. Deal with institutions and red tape with honesty and integrity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Set the pace instead of letting someone else take the lead. Use your skills, intelligence and charm to outmaneuver negativity and opposition. Form alliances with people who are forward-thinking and eager to bring about positive change. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be careful who you choose to associate with personally or professionally. Don't be fooled by a smooth talker. Look for people who offer sound advice and practical options that you know you can afford and incorporate into your life. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A change may not appeal to you initially, but with a little finagling, you'll find a way to move forward. Personal improvements will pay off and encourage others to support your efforts. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Financial, contractual or health issues will surface. If you take on too much or you are unable to adjust to what's happening, it will be difficult to get ahead. Make sure you know what you want before you engage in negotiations. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Walk away from negativity and toward enlightenment. Seize the moment, and follow your heart and your dreams. Make relationships, love and gaining experience your priorities. Romance will improve your attitude and your personal life. Take a mental, physical or spiritual journey. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look for something new and exciting to occupy your time and to help you make a change to the way you move forward. Traveling, learning and new experiences will prepare you for what's to come. Embrace life to build your future. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put more emphasis on personal growth, home and family. Mental, emotional and physical changes will prompt you to engage in relationships with people who share the same interests. Simplifying your life will free up more time to spend with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Stay calm, and don't worry so much about what others do or say. Pay closer attention to your home, how you live and the changes you want to make to ensure your stability, security and comfort moving forward. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* An unexpected offer should be looked at carefully. If you are uncertain, say so and move on to something more suitable. Make decisions that serve you well. You don't have to be a people pleaser when it's not in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get involved in something you believe in, and make a difference. The experience will be satisfying and change your attitude toward life and the way you want to live. Don't expect everyone to support your choices. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are active, unyielding and protective. You are reserved and observant.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3				2		1
		2		9		
			1	3	9		5
	9				5	6	
		1			8		
	8	2				7	
1		7	5	2			
			3		6		
2		6					7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	9	6	4	8	1	5	3	7
4	5	8	6	7	3	1	9	2
7	3	1	5	2	9	6	4	8
8	6	3	9	4	2	7	1	5
5	2	9	3	1	7	4	8	6
1	4	7	8	6	5	3	2	9
9	1	5	7	3	8	2	6	4
3	7	4	2	9	6	8	5	1
6	8	2	1	5	4	9	7	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LIFE'S A BEACH Solution: 9 letters

B	T	U	B	I	N	G	E	T	A	W	A	Y	S	S
F	I	L	A	C	I	P	O	R	T	L	S	A	U	S
C	O	R	A	L	F	C	E	A	I	W	N	N	N	T
B	P	F	D	L	I	L	N	T	I	D	S	O	R	R
L	E	S	O	S	A	N	R	M	A	H	I	T	I	O
U	L	A	U	X	I	U	M	L	I	T	T	R	S	S
E	T	M	E	N	N	I	S	N	A	A	O	A	E	E
G	S	R	G	K	N	A	E	C	O	L	W	V	Ⓕ	R
R	A	E	S	G	A	Y	O	B	C	H	E	E	Ⓡ	O
E	C	T	V	O	L	L	E	Y	B	A	L	L	Ⓤ	M
M	D	A	O	A	S	E	A	S	H	E	L	L	Ⓢ	A
B	N	W	F	S	W	E	I	V	L	O	T	I	O	N
U	A	I	N	I	K	I	B	P	S	C	O	A	S	T
S	S	R	O	O	D	I	K	S	L	E	T	O	H	I
H	A	T	S	E	R	N	A	E	B	B	I	R	A	C

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Bars, Bikini, Birds, Blue, Boat, Caribbean, Cheer, Coast, Coral, Fish, Float, Getaways, Hats, Hotels, Lake, Location, Lotion, Music, Ocean, Relax, Resorts, Rest, Romantic, Sandals, Sandcastle, Seashells, Skidoo, Submerge, Sunny, Sunrise, Sunshine, Surf, Swimming, Tanning, Towel, Travel, Tropical, Trunks, Tubing, Views, Volleyball, Water, Waves

Yesterday's Answer: Friendship

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 19-003

Repair/Rebuild damaged sections of the CREES Agricultural Equipment Facility, Tinian

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of construction services for the Repair/Rebuild damaged sections of the CREES Agricultural Equipment Facility, Tinian.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Monday, April 15th between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., May 15, 2019, CNMI date and time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 19-003 packet attention Anita Camacho at email anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

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Messi leads Barcelona to rout of Liverpool

AP

Barcelona's Lionel Messi runs with the ball between Liverpool's Virgil Van Dijk, left, and Joel Matip, right, during the Champions League semifinal, first leg, soccer match at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona Spain, Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

BARCELONA, Spain—Facing its toughest opponent of the season, Barcelona once again turned to Lionel Messi to move the team within one step of reaching its first Champions League final in four seasons.

Messi scored his 599th and 600th goals for Barcelona to subdue a Liverpool lineup that had outplayed the hosts for long stretches at Camp Nou on Wednesday but finally succumbed to the Argentine's mastery.

His double and Luis Suárez' early goal against his former club gave Barcelona a commanding 3-0 win in the first leg of the Champions League semifinals.

Messi has won the Champions League four times but his hunger to restore Barcelona as the best club team on the continent was evident against Liverpool, when he had to almost singlehandedly quash a ferocious comeback attempt by the visitors after Suárez' 26th-minute opener.

Messi doubled the lead from a rebound with 15 minutes left and followed that up by curling in a perfectly struck free kick in the 82nd.

Mohamed Salah nearly scored a valuable away goal for Liverpool to take back to next week's return leg at Anfield when he hit the post late.

"It is not over because we are going to a ground that is very difficult, with lots of history, that presses rivals, but we are happy with today's game," Messi said. "This is the critical moment, the best moment, and we have to be more united than ever. At the start of the year we said we would do this together."

Messi's double also took his overall tally for the season to 48 goals and his Champions League-leading tally to 12 this campaign.

It was a bitter loss for Jürgen Klopp's Liverpool, which is trying to reach consecutive European finals after losing last year's decider to Real Madrid.

Even though striker Roberto Firmino was only fit enough for the final 12 minutes, Liverpool dominated long stretches of the match but failed to finish its chances.

"I think that it was the best we have played in the Champions League, including last year," Klopp said. "We had good chances and caused them real trouble. The problem is that we didn't score a goal."

On Tuesday, Ajax won 1-0 at Tottenham in the other semifinal.

Barcelona has already clinched the Spanish league title, leaving it free to fully focus on the second leg while it aims for a rare treble of titles.

Liverpool doesn't have that same luxury, being in a race with Manchester City for the Premier League. It trails City by one point and visits Newcastle on Saturday.

The speed of Salah and Sadio Mané caused Barcelona problems throughout and a flurry of jitters in its backline.

But Messi was a force at the other end, making Liverpool's defence bend and almost break on his solo runs until it finally gave way in the final minutes.

"He was unstoppable," Klopp said.

When a lull in the action came after a frantic start, Barcelona found a way through to break the deadlock.

Defender Jordi Alba sent a perfectly weighted long pass that was reminiscent of the best assists of former Barcelona great Xavi Hernández. The ball skipped past a backtracking Virgil Dan Dijk and met the run of Suárez, who slid and used the tip of his right boot to tuck the ball home.

Liverpool pressed Barcelona into its area after halftime and succeeded in the rarest of football feats: taking the ball away from Barcelona.

James Milner and Salah drew the saves from Marc-Andre ter Stegen just after the restart. Milner then wasted a golden opportunity when he fired into Teg Stegen's arms.

That was when Messi settled the match.

"We played their game, at their physically demanding pace," Messi said. "We aren't used to that. We like having possession of the ball. We were exhausted, but that's what the match demanded."

Messi's first goal came with a bit of luck after Suárez kneed a volley against the bar and the ball fell straight to Messi, who chested it down and tapped it into an empty net.

The second was spectacular. After he was fouled by Fabinho well outside the area, Messi struck a swerving, left-foot strike past a diving Alisson and into the corner of the net.

"We know what Messi can do but he does not stop surprising us," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "He has made the difference again and pushed us to victory."

Casillas has heart attack, out of danger

In Portugal, veteran goalkeeper Iker Casillas has had a heart attack but is out of danger, Porto said Wednesday.

The Portuguese club said Casillas fell ill during a practice session and remains hospitalized, but the "heart condition has been resolved."

It said the 37-year-old Spaniard is "doing well" and is in stable condition.

Porto said the practice session at the team's training center was interrupted so doctors could attend to Casillas.

No timeline was given for how long the goalkeeper will be sidelined. Defending champion Porto trails Benfica by two points in the Portuguese league with two games left.

Messages of support poured in from clubs and players across the world.

"Real Madrid wishes to offer its full support to our beloved captain Iker Casillas," the Spanish club said in a statement. "Iker Casillas has shown us how to overcome the most incredible challenges throughout his professional career, adding significantly to our club's successes. He's shown us that giving up has no place in our way of life and demonstrated time and again that staying strong during the hardest of challenges is the only path to victory.

"Real Madrid and all of madridismo look forward to seeing our legendary captain back in good health as soon as possible and we send him all the encouragement in the world."

Casillas joined Porto in 2015 after 16 seasons with Real Madrid, which he helped win five Spanish league titles and three Champions League trophies.

Casillas also helped Spain's national team win one World Cup and two European Championships.

Krieger surprisingly included on USWNT's World Cup roster

NEW YORK—There will be at least one surprising name on the United States roster when coach Jill Ellis announces Thursday the 23 players who will travel to next month's FIFA Women's World Cup in France.

Ali Krieger, who helped the Americans win the World Cup in Canada four years ago but who has played just once for the national team over the last 25 months, is included on the squad, multiple sources with knowledge of the selection told Yahoo Sports.

The veteran Orlando Pride defender, 34, made her 99th international appearance April 7 in a 6-0 rout of Belgium in Los Angeles. Before that, Krieger's last game with the USWNT came more than two years earlier, when she entered as a second-half substitute in a 4-0 friendly victory against Russia in April of 2017.

Krieger went the full 90 minutes in six seven games at Canada 2015, including the 5-2 win over Japan in the final that gave the U.S. its third world title. She is expected to provide cover at right back in France this summer behind fellow 2015 vet Kelley O'Hara. O'Hara has been playing with a sore ankle for much of this year after undergoing surgery last October. She didn't start in either of the Utah Royals' matches so far this NWSL season.

"Ali has never been off the radar," Ellis told reporters when asked about Krieger last month. "Sometimes the experience piece is something you have to take into consideration going into a massive event like [the World Cup]."

While Ellis' decision to include Krieger is unexpected, it's not without precedent. The English-born boss pulled a similar move in 2015 when she picked then-37-year-old Shannon Boxx for the final 23 even though Boxx had only rejoined the team in the months leading up to that tournament.

Boxx, who went 23 months without a cap before being recalled in March of 2015, made just one appearance off the bench at that World Cup but was lauded as an important role player and positive locker room presence as the Americans' triumphed.

In March, Krieger and U.S. goalkeeper Ashlyn Harris announced that they are engaged to be married. Harris, who also plays for the Pride, missed Orlando's most recent game with a knee injury but coach Marc Skinner indicated that it wasn't serious. Harris is expected to back up starter Alyssa Naeher this summer.

The Women's World Cup kicks off June 7. The U.S. opens its group stage slate June 11 against Thailand before closing the first round with games versus Chile and Sweden. Ellis' roster will be formally announced at 1 p.m. ET on Thursday.

Blazers hold off Nuggets to tie series

DENVER (AP)—After giving up 39 points to Damian Lillard in the opener, the Denver Nuggets were determined to make sure Portland's role players would have to bear the burden of evening up the series.

His teammates were up to the task on a night that Lillard, who came in averaging 34.8 points in the playoffs, was held to 14 points on 5-of-17 shooting.

CJ McCollum led six Trail Blazers in double figures with 20 points in a 97-90 victory at the Pepsi Center on Wednesday night that evened their series 1-1.

"It's very important," said Enes Kanter, who chipped in 15 points for Portland. "Teams can't guard him with one man. They were sending double-teams, triple-teams. That's when I said, 'He's making himself better, but at the same time he's making everybody else better around him.' He was passing the ball, really active on defense. He's been unbelievable, man."

The series shifts to Portland for Game 3 Friday night, and Lillard's hoping a return to the Moda Center will help him find his long-range rhythm after he misfired on 14 of 19 3-pointers in Denver.

The Nuggets trimmed a 17-point, third-quarter deficit to 95-90 in the final minute thanks to an astonishing 14 offensive rebounds in the fourth quarter and a 19-9 run before Rodney Hood's two free throws with 17 seconds left iced it.

"The good news is they had all of those offensive rebounds but they didn't convert a lot," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "They were 8 for 24 on second-chance points. We were fortunate we came away not hurt as badly as we could have been on the offensive boards."

Nikola Jokic had 16 points and 14 boards but got off to a slow start and wasn't nearly the take-control force he was in Game 1, when he scored 37 points.

"The last quarter we missed a lot of put-backs, but 23 offensive rebounds is a big number," Jokic said. "The first half we had open shots but we didn't make any of those."

With Jokic taking—and missing—just one shot in the first quarter and scoring six points in the first half, the Nuggets trailed 50-35 at halftime after the franchise's worst quarter ever at home in the playoffs, one in which they made just 5 of 23 shots and missed all 10 of their 3-pointers.

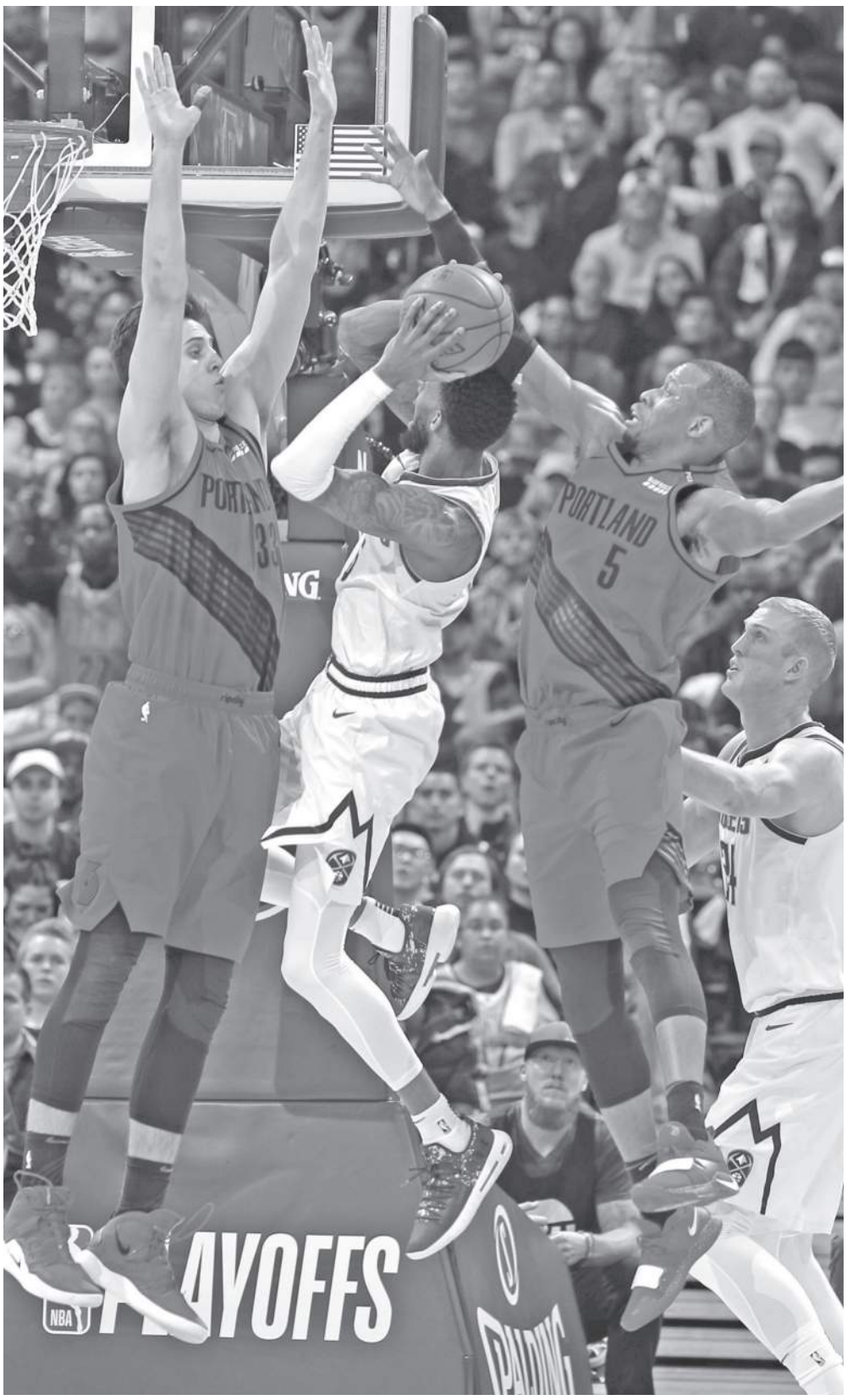
Nuggets coach Michael Malone said he admonished his team at halftime, "'if you're not making shots, maybe attack the basket, maybe get to the foul line, maybe get to the rim.'"

They started doing that after halftime, but the Blazers answered time after time, getting 15 points from Hood, 11 from Al-Farouq Aminu and 10 from Zach Collins.

Denver sparkplug forward Torrey Craig's nose was bloodied after he was knocked down and slammed into teammate Monte Morris' foot early in the second quarter. Moments after Craig hobbled off, leaving a trail of blood, Maurice Harkless rolled his right ankle and also left the game.

Harkless didn't return but Craig came back in the second half.

Jamal Murray spent part of the fourth quarter on the stationary bike trying to loosen up his tight right thigh. He missed 12 of 18 shots.



AP

Denver Nuggets guard Will Barton, center, goes up for a shot between Portland Trail Blazers forward Zach Collins, left, and guard Rodney Hood during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Wednesday, May 1, 2019, in Denver. Portland won, 97-90.

Craig, whose insertion into the starting lineup turned around the Nuggets' first-round series against San Antonio, returned with a face mask with 3 minutes left in the third quarter. He immediately grabbed a rebound and his 3-pointer with a minute left in the quarter was Denver's first since 1:11 of the first quarter.

"I think Torrey Craig is the unsung hero of the game," Malone said. "He's got some (guts). He's got some toughness."

Jokic pushed Kanter, who slammed into Craig with 43.5 seconds left on a made free throw. Murray took exception to Kanter staring down the fallen Craig and a scuffle ensued at midcourt. The two were assessed a double technical.

Stotts and his assistants rocked bow ties Wednesday night in honor of Jon Yim, the team's video coordinator and player development coach who was seriously injured in an auto accident last week that left him hospitalized with a broken leg and collapsed lung.

"That was dope," Harkless said. "I thought it was pretty cool. They all took a picture before the game in the locker room, probably send it to him. That's a cool gesture. We all wish he was here. We're all praying for him. We feel him. He's a big part of our team still. We'll see him when we get home."

Harkless and Aminu combined for 10 points in the first quarter after being held to a combined four points in Game 1.

Will Barton sank two foul shots with 8:19 left in the fourth quarter after an odd sequence in which the Jokic missed a jumper and the Nuggets missed five put-backs.

Harden played with blurred vision and stinging eyes

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—James Harden's eyes were still red and stinging well after the final buzzer.

He could barely see on the court let alone read the box score after the game.

The reigning MVP hopes he will feel better with a few days off before the Rockets' Western Conference semifinal series against Golden State resumes Saturday in Houston with his team trailing 2-0 following a 115-109 loss Tuesday night in Game 2.

Harden scored 29 points on 9-for-19 shooting to go with seven rebounds, four assists and six turnovers. Eye drops he received only helped so much to relieve the discomfort.

He injured his eyes with 6:39 left in the first quarter, grabbing at his face after he and Green fought for a loose rebound and Green's left hand got Harden in the face.

"I can barely see. Just tried to go out there and do what I can to help my teammates," Harden said. "It's pretty blurry right now. Hopefully it gets better day by day."

When Harden went to the locker room with 6:27 remaining and a towel over his left eye for a cut, Green patted him on the back and checked to make sure he was OK. Harden returned at the 7:09 mark of the second.

"We were fighting for a rebound. I made a mistake and hit him in his eye," Green said. "It's not about hurting anybody out here. So many times people forget, when a guy has an injury, you live with that every day, every second of every day. It's not just about this game. If his eye is messed up, he's got to live that every day. Just want to check on the guy. At the end of the day it's bigger than basketball when it comes to injuries."

Harden scored seven straight Houston points during one stretch midway through the fourth, including a 3 at 7:25 that got the Rockets within 92-89. Stephen Curry then connected for a key 3 at the 6:31 mark.

As good as he still was, Harden didn't seem completely comfortable.

"He fought through some stuff. The guy looked like he was not in great shape the first half, I think it might have cleared up a little bit," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "But he got raked pretty good in the eyes. But that's him. I didn't have a doubt he was coming back unless it was something catastrophic. I'm sure he would have loved to have played better. Under the circumstances, I thought he played great."

Pacers still uncertain about Oladipo's return

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo's confidence and positive energy left Indiana Pacers president Kevin Pritchard convinced that the two-time NBA All-Star will return "200 to 300 percent" better when they met Sunday, but for now, there's no exact date set for his return.

"I think it's too early to put that timeline out there," Pritchard said at the end of season press conference Wednesday. "What happens in that injury is you have the surgery and for about 12 to 13 weeks it's just about healing. And now it flips from the injury to the physical therapy part. He's just starting that therapy part. My guess is we'll be able to have a better timeline but it won't be for a while. I can't give you a definitive timeline."

Pritchard said he hopes to have a better idea of Oladipo's progress before free agency begins July 1. He reiterated that Oladipo's main focus is on recovery.

"I don't think it's right to say, 'Well we know he's going to be back. He'll be back at this time.' Because the truth is the body heals at a different rate for every person," Pritchard said. "It's all theory and it's not practical right now. I'm hoping in the next month to two months it can be a more practical decision."

Oladipo gave fans a peek inside his recovery during the first episode of his YouTube show "The V.O. Show." The former IU player appeared upbeat and determined as he went through basketball workouts and rehab.

The 6-4 guard worked on his ball handling and shooting, even elevating slightly on his injured knee for jump shots. Oladipo said he thinks the injury was "a blessing" and vows to come back an improved player.

Moreland helps Red Sox sweep A's

AP

Boston Red Sox's Mitch Moreland is congratulated by teammates after his two-run home run in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics at Fenway Park, Tuesday, April 30, 2019, in Boston.

BOSTON (AP)—Mitch Moreland homered and drove in another run on a sacrifice fly after a lucky hop off the second base bag moved the runners along and Boston beat Oakland 7-3 on Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep for the previously struggling World Series champions.

The Red Sox already trailed 1-0 when Rafael Devers singled leading off the second inning and Michael Chavis bounced a perfect double-play grounder up the middle. But the ball hit the base and eluded second baseman Chad Pinder, going into center field and allowing Devers to take third.

Moreland followed with a deep sacrifice fly to tie the score, then hit a solo homer over the Green Monster in the fourth to give Boston the lead for good. Marcus Walden (4-0) relieved Red Sox starter Hector Velazquez after two innings and pitched three scoreless innings, striking out three and allowing one hit.

Mike Fiers (2-3) gave up three runs and five hit in five innings for Oakland, which has lost six in a row starting a nine-game trip.

The Red Sox, who started last season 17-2 en route to a franchise record 108 victories and a fourth championship in 15 years, fell to 3-9 after losing the home opener and were seven games under .500 and 7 1/2 games out of first place on April 16. They have won eight of 12 since.

After Moreland made it 2-1 in the fourth with his ninth homer, Boston added one run in the fifth on Mookie Betts' sacrifice fly. The Red Sox loaded the bases again in the sixth before Tzu-Wei Lin singled in one run and Andrew Benintendi singled in a pair.

Christian Vazquez homered off Ryan Dull to lead off the eighth to make it 7-1. Red Sox reliever Tyler Thornburg allowed doubles to Matt Chapman, Khris Davis and Pinder in the ninth inning, leading to two runs.

The Red Sox had the potential for more runs in the second with runners on first and second, one out and one run in on Moreland's sacrifice fly. Jackie Bradley Jr. singled to load the bases, but Chavis was held up at third.

With Lin at the plate, Fiers threw a fastball that went off the top of Josh Phegley's glove, and Chavis took off for home. But the ball bounced off the backstop right back to the catcher, who shuffled back to home plate to tag the sliding runner. Lin struck out to end the inning.

The Red Sox swept a team for the first time at home. They won the season series against Oakland 4-3; the A's had won it in each of the past two seasons.

Twins 6, Astros 2

In Minneapolis, Martin Perez pitched eight scoreless innings in his longest start in two seasons, and Jonathan Schoop hit a towering two-run homer to help the Minnesota Twins beat the Houston Astros.

Perez (4-0) allowed only four hits and two walks while striking out seven, improving to 3-0 with a 2.08 ERA in his first four starts with his new team after the early schedule with extra off days steered the Twins to shorten their rotation and start him in the bullpen.

The 28-year-old left-hander last completed eight innings on Aug. 9, 2017, for Texas. He won a career-high 13 games for the Rangers that season. For the Twins, Perez has logged at least six innings in each of his four turns.

Diamondbacks 3, Yankees 2

In Phoenix, Ketel Marte homered, Merrill Kelly won his first start against the Yankees and Arizona beat New York to sweep a two-game series.

New York dropped to 0-5 this year against teams that currently have winning records and is 17-8 against clubs that started the day under .500.

Kelly (3-2) allowed one run and five hits in 5 1/3 innings as Arizona won for the seventh time in nine games. Greg Holland pitched around Cameron Maybin's one-out walk in the ninth to remain perfect in seven save chances.

Masahiro Tanaka (2-3) allowed three runs and five hits in four innings, which matched his season low.

Royals 3, Rays 2
Royals 8, Rays 2

In Kansas City, Kelvin Gutierrez hit his first big league homer and the Royals pounded AL Cy Young winner Blake Snell for the second time in a week to complete Kansas City's first doubleheader sweep since July 7, 2015, also against Tampa Bay.

In the opener, Adalberto Mondesi hit a two-run homer in a three-run first inning for Kansas City, and Jacob Junis (3-2) and the bullpen held on.

Snell was easily outpitched by Glenn Sparkman (1-1), who was recalled from Triple-A Omaha and earned his first career win.

Billy Hamilton's RBI single in the fourth chased Snell (2-3), who allowed seven runs, six hits and three walks. Ryne Stanek (0-1) lost the opener.

Orioles 5, White Sox 4

In Chicago, Jonathan Villar hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth Kelvin Herrera (0-1) after Richie Martin's leadoff triple, and Baltimore won a doubleheader opener to stop a four-game losing streak.

Branden Kline (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings, and Mychal Givens got four outs for his second save, striking out Jose Abreu with a runner on first to end the game.

Cubs 11, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Jon Lester and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, Javier Baez homered and doubled during Chicago's six-run second inning, and the Cubs beat the Mariners for their 13th win in 17 games.

The Cubs handed Seattle starter Marco Gonzales his first loss of the season, thanks to the big second inning when 12 batters came to the plate. Gonzales (5-1) failed to make it out of the inning after giving up five hits and walking two.

Baez led off the second with a homer to deep right-center field—his 10th of the season—and later added an RBI double just inside third base. Jason Heyward also had an RBI single, and two of the walks came with the bases loaded.

Braves 5, Padres 1

In Atlanta, Max Fried gave up one run in seven innings, Dansby Swanson homered and drove in three runs and the Braves beat the San Diego Padres to spoil Cal Quantrill's major league debut.

The Braves led 2-1 before scoring three runs in the seventh off Luis Perdomo. Ronald Acuña Jr. drove in Charlie Culberson from third base with a pinch-hit infield single as catcher Francisco Mejia dropped shortstop Manny Machado's throw when shifting to make the tag. Swanson followed with a two-run homer.

Fried (4-1) allowed four hits. He had seven strikeouts and gave up a fourth-inning homer to Machado.

Cardinals 5, Nationals 1

In Washington, Miles Mikolas outpitched Max Scherzer, Marcell Ozuna had three hits and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Nationals for their fifth straight win.

José Martínez drove in two runs for the Cardinals, who have won 10 of 11.

Washington has lost the first three games of the series and six of their last seven overall, and fell to 12-17.

The Cardinals touched up Scherzer (1-4) for three runs in the first as Victor Robles — playing right in place of Juan Soto, who was scratched from the lineup with back spasms—misread Ozuna's flyball and it went for an RBI double. Martínez delivered a two-run single a batter later.

Marlins 4, Indians 2

In Miami, Corey Kluber was having another rough night even before he was hit by a line drive, and the Cleveland Indians right-hander took the loss as the Miami Marlins broke a four-game losing streak.

Kluber (2-3) departed with a bruised right forearm after being hit by Brian Anderson's comebacker. The two-time American League Cy Young Award winner allowed eight hits and three runs in 4 2/3 innings, which left his ERA at 5.80.

The Indians are already without starter Mike Clevinger, who is sidelined until at least June by a back injury.

Phillies 7, Tigers 3

In Philadelphia, Maikel Franco hit a bases-clearing double in the seventh, Rhys Hoskins homered and the Phillies beat the Detroit Tigers.

Aaron Nola pitched 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball, helping the Phillies earn a split of their two-game interleague series. The ace right-hander allowed seven hits and struck out six.

NL East-leading Philadelphia had scored one run or less in five of the previous nine games and had a tough time against Tigers starter Daniel Norris, who gave up one run and five hits in five innings.

But the offense tagged Detroit's bullpen for six runs in two innings.

Reds 1, Mets 0

In New York, Jose Iglesias homered off Edwin Diaz in the ninth inning to give the Cincinnati Reds a 1-0 victory over the Mets.

Mets ace Jacob deGrom rediscovered his Cy Young form, throwing seven shutout innings of three-hit ball after losing his previous three starts. But as was often the case last season, his teammates didn't provide much support.

It was the second time in three nights that Diaz (0-2) gave up a tiebreaking homer to the Reds in the ninth. Jesse Winker connected against the All-Star closer in the series opener Monday to give Cincinnati a 5-4 victory.

Matansa-1, Topnotch edge opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Topnotch's Shawna Brennfleck takes her time before dribbling during their game against Matansa Football Club-1 in the opening week of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's League last April 14 at the TSL Sports Complex.

Matansa Football Club-1 and Topnotch downed their respective foes in the masters division of the 2019 Dove Spring Women's League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Matansa-1 edged sister team Matansa-2, 5-3, while Topnotch nosed out MP United, 4-3. In third match last weekend, TanHoldings and Kanoa had a draw.

Ivan Claire Gozon and Wasana Gregory scored two goals apiece for Matansa-1, while Nang Aldrich chipped in one. Gregory had her brace in the first half, while Aldrich also delivered early in the game to lift Matansa-1 to a 3-1 lead at the break. Valerie Hofschneider drilled the lone goal for Matansa-2 in the opening half.

Then in the second half, it was Gozon's turn to knock in a pair of goals to keep Matansa-1 on top. Gozon scored in the 38th and 48th minute. Elna Curate and Noi Horey posted the two goals for Matansa-1 with the former finding her target in the 34th and the latter nine minutes later.

In the Topnotch-MP United tiff, Shawna Brennfleck made a hat trick, including the insurance in the second half.

Brennfleck had her first goal in the third minute and the second in the 23rd for Topnotch's 2-1 lead. Laarni Zapanta scored in the 17th minute to keep MP United in the game.

Zapanta added one more in the second half, while Karen Aglipay also hit the board for MP United, but Topnotch hung on with Brennfleck getting her third goal and Marie Ornes also contributing in the final frame. Meanwhile, Eun Benavente hit the equalizer for TanHoldings in the 48th minute, nearly two minutes after Merlie Tolentino gave Kanoa the shaky lead.

SCHOOL

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Fiona Regan—and they are also running in the 100m finals, along with their schoolmate Savita Sikkel. Chung and Hall qualified, too in the 200m, while Sikkel and Chung made it in the finalists list in the 400m.

Agape has the most qualifiers in the 800m run in Barbara Wang, Mary Fu, and Yulia Yasuda and they will also race in the 1,500m event. In the long jump, Agape, Koblerville Elementary School, and WSR have two each.

In the boys softball throw, Koblerville and WSR will also field two students each, while SIS has the same number of entries and will challenge the representatives of Agape and San Vicente Elementary School.

In the long jump, two Northern Marianas International School students will square off against WSR, Koblervile, Agape, SIS, and Saipan Community School.

The boys U60m and 200m runs will also be an open race with no school having more than two qualifiers, while San Vicente has three entries each in the 100m and 400m races. In the 800m, WSR is the early favorite with four of its students qualifying, while SIS and Agape have two each in the 1,500m run.

The championships will continue tomorrow, while the middle and high school events will be held on May 10 and 11.

AGAPE

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opening tip to the final buzzer to register 32 second-chance points.

Antonio Li cleaned up his teammates' misfires and banked in three putbacks, while Eason Tang and David Zheng added 4 points each. The Torchbearers spread the wealth, as Caleb Dai, Hilton Jin, and Jordan Miao each knocked in a basket to help Agape pull away after the first period, 20-4. Kaito Rechucher and Tommy Jin had one field goal each to account for SDA's 4 points.

The Torchbearers continued their selfless play in the second canto, as six of their players chipped in at least one field goal apiece for a commanding 32-6 halftime advantage. SDA managed to hit only one basket off Jin's banked 12-footer in the final moments of the half.

With Agape firmly in control of the game, reserves Peter Hu and Samuel He came to play in the third period and had 4 markers apiece to keep their safe distance, 46-15.

Rechucher shouldered the Guardian's 9 points in the penultimate canto after netting a trey and three 15-footers.

Rechucher again, scored all of SDA's points in the final canto, while Agape's bench ran a balance offense to finish off the Guardians.

Meanwhile in the girls division game, Jenny Lin's 19 markers was more than enough for Agape to put SDA out of commission.

Lynn Zhao, Kristy Wang, and Mei Ou contributed 4 points apiece for Agape, which ended the regular season with a 6-0 record. SDA wrapped up the prelims with a dismal 1-5 slate and faces a tough task in the semifinal round, as it will duel the top-ranked Agape anew. Mt. Carmel and Grace Christian Academy will square off in the other semis game on May 7.

Though the playoff pairings have been completed, a few more regular season matches will still be played. Today, GCA will play its last game of the season against Northern Marianas International School at the Eagles court in Navy Hill, while MCS and Saipan Community School will tussle at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Boys Division

ACS 60—Li 12, Dai 8, He 6, Miao 6, Song 6, Chen 4, Hu 4, Jin 4 Tang 4, Zheng 4, Bao 2.

SDA 19—Rechucher 15, Jin 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-4, 32-6, 46-15, 60-19

Girls Division

ACS 35—Lin 19, Ou 4, Wang 4, Zhou 4, Yang 2, Zhang 2.

SDA 13—Leona 4, Lopez 3, Ashley 2, Romee 2 .

Scoring by quarters: 10-4, 16-4, 23-7, 35-11

TIGHT

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crucial pairing on May 11

MP United 14, Kanoa-2

MP United also blanked Kanoa-2 to remain in the hunt for the division championship.

Richard Steel powered MP United to its seventh win after scoring six goals. He had a hat trick early in the first half and was still unstoppable in the second.

TanHoldings 6, Matansa 0

TanHoldings eased past Matansa for its fifth victory in the division.

Taro Goto starred in the win after making three goals, while Mark Roque chipped in two, and Oliver Fajardo had one.

GIRLS U19 DIVISION
MP United 11, TanHoldings 3

MP United earned an easy win over TanHoldings in a futsal game last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Guinevere Borja led MP United with his three goals, while Lilian Podziewski, Katrina Costales, Stella McCallion, Anela Duenas, Francesca Bucalig, and Britally Wally also hit the board. MP United now has five victories, behind by one against idle and the unbeaten Kanoa.

TanHoldings, which drew two goals from Aniana and one from Catherine Barroza, has only one win to show so far this season.

Matansa 6, Southern United 1

Matansa broke into the win column after stunning Southern United in the other game in the division.

Barbara Peteru delivered a hat trick for Matansa, which dropped its first five matches before pulling off an upset over Southern United. Jannah Casarino made a pair of goals for the winning squad, while Leisja Sally added one. Nathanette Camacho logged the only goal for Southern United.

CO-ED U12
Kanoa 7, Shirley's 2

Kanoa dominated Shirley's to move one win away from sweeping the season.

Taehun Han fired for goals for Kanoa, which has already secured the division championship as early as last April 20 and notched its ninth win after topping Shirley's. Jayvin Bisek bagged the two goals for Shirley's.

TanHoldings 1, MP United 0

TanHolding nosed out MP United in the other match in the division.

The victory put TanHoldings at the No. 2 spot in the team standings, dislodging MP United.

Jerald Dalawampu scored the only goal in the match.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of April 29, 2019)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	8	8	0	0	60	10	50	24
TanHoldings	8	4	0	4	25	31	-6	12
MP United	8	3	0	5	20	27	-7	9
Shirley's	8	1	0	7	13	50	-37	3

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	8	8	0	0	66	3	63	24
MP United	8	7	0	1	47	5	42	21
TanHoldings	8	5	0	3	38	21	17	15
Shirley's	8	3	0	5	22	33	-11	9
Matansa	9	1	1	7	12	42	-30	4
Kanoa-2	7	0	0	7	5	72	-67	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	7	7	0	0	35	6	29	21
TanHoldings	7	4	0	3	24	11	13	12
Matansa	6	3	0	3	12	13	-1	9
U15NT	6	1	0	5	4	19	-15	3
Kanoa	6	1	0	5	8	34	-26	3

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Southern United	8	7	1	0	34	3	31	22
Kanoa	8	6	1	1	49	14	35	19
TanHoldings	8	4	3	1	24	14	10	15
MP United	8	2	2	4	18	18	0	8
Matansa	8	1	1	6	6	42	-36	4
Paire	8	0	0	8	8	48	-40	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Kanoa	6	6	0	0	54	12	42	18
MP United	7	5	0	2	65	28	37	15
Southern United	6	3	0	3	19	33	-14	9
TanHoldings	7	1	0	6	13	37	-24	3
Matansa	6	1	0	5	11	52	-41	3

Messi leads Barcelona to rout of Liverpool

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Sports

Blazers hold off Nuggets to tie series

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Agape sweeps regular season

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Agape Christian School's David Zheng goes for a layup, while Seventh Day Adventist's Kaito Rechucher looks on during their middle school game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the SDA court in Chalan Kiya.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School earned perfect records both in the girls and boys divisions of the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League after sweeping its double-header against the Seventh Day Adventist yesterday.

The Torchbearers steamrolled the Guardians in the boys match at the SDA court in Chalan Kiya, 60-19, while Agape also had an easy win in the girls division, 35-13.

Agape went on a 20-4 scoring run in the first quarter to put the game out of the Guardians' reach. The Torchbearers finished the regular season with an unbeaten 11-0 record to bag the outright semis berth. SDA ended up with a 2-9 card for last place in the seven-team field and will face Mt. Carmel School in the quarterfinals on May 8.

Agape players towered above the Guardians and crashed the boards from the

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All Schools champs kick-off today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships will start today at the Oleai Sports Complex with competitions in the elementary division only.

After a series of qualifiers in March and last month, U7, U9, and U11 students who made the grade in the trials will vie for the gold, silver, and bronze medals in the 60m, 100, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m runs, long jump, and softball throw.

Today's finals will start at 4pm with qualifiers in the softball throw (U7) competing. For the first running event, students in the U11 age group will race in the 400m run.

Meanwhile, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Brilliant Star School, and Agape Christian School, and Saipan International School are the teams to watch in the U11 age group, as they each have more than 10 qualifiers in the weekend event.

WSR gained 21 qualifying berths, getting majority (17) of them in the boys division. Brilliant Star led the qualifiers in the girls field with 15 for a total of 18 slots—the same number that SIS got—while Agape received 19 berths with 12 of them in the girls division. Rota and Tinian are allotted one slot apiece in each event.

Brilliant Star has three entries in the girls U11 run—Ella Hall, Irin Chung, and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Students compete in the 800m qualifying run in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last month at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Tight battle for division titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The fight for the boys U15 and girls U16 championships 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League is too close to call, as Kanoa Football Club remains in contention in the two divisions, while Southern United FC and MP United FC are also in the race.

In the girls U15 division match last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, Southern United whipped Paire, 8-0, for a 7-1-0 win-draw-loss record. At close second place with a 6-1-1 slate is Kanoa FC, which also hammered Matansa, 15-0, in last weekend's game.

The Top 2 teams have two matches left with Southern facing TanHoldings this Saturday and Kanoa meeting MP United. Then on May 11, Southern and Kanoa will collide in probably the title-deciding game. If both Kanoa and Southern win their separate games tomorrow, the former may have to beat the latter to force a tie and playoff for the division crown.

In other results in the division last Saturday, TanHoldings downed MP United for its fourth win.

Mary Joy Aniana and Stephanie Flores scored two goals apiece for TanHoldings, while Sydney Hinds added one. Audrey Castro drilled the lone goal for MP United.

BOYS U15
Kanoa-1 7, Shirley's 0

Kanoa-1 shut down Shirley's to remain on top of the six-team field.

Kanoa-1 kept its perfect record (8-0-0), but has yet to secure the division title in the double-round robin contest with MP United lurking behind with its 7-0-1 slate.

Merrick Toves and Brian Lubao scored two goals each for Kanoa-1, while Sean Gil, Markus Toves, and Jaydee Jose contributed one apiece.

Kanoa-1 will play TanHoldings first this Saturday before dueling MP United in a

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club's Sharmaine Francisco, left, keeps the ball away from a Matansa Football Club defender during their girls U16 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.